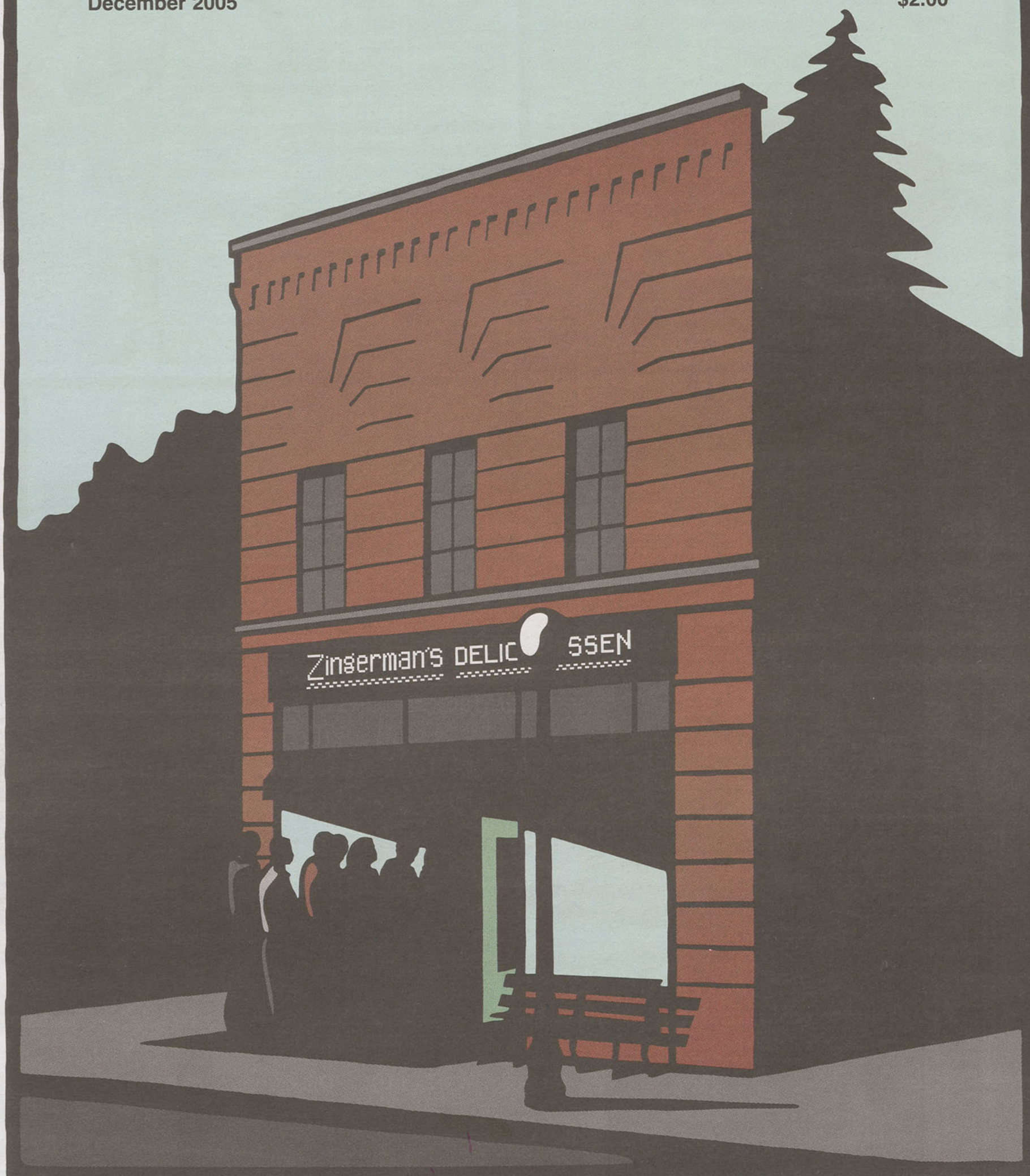


# Ann Arbor Observer

December 2005

\$2.00





## Cookware

There is no "Best" cookware. The "Right" cookware depends on how and what a person cooks. Nothing heats a delicate sauce more evenly than a copper saucepan. If you are browning meat a homely iron skillet is best. You could make a beef stew in a stock pot, but the same delicious stew with carrots and onions, served in a flame orange Dutch oven, is so beautiful it will make your guests gasp with delight. We know a thing or two about cooking and cookware and we're happy to share that knowledge to help you choose the "Best" cookware for you.



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## Ornaments

Our selection of tree ornaments, garlands, skirts and holiday trimmings expands each year. We owe its success to Cindy, who searches the catalogs and trade shows all year-long to find the retro designs that remind her of her childhood trees. Cindy's mother, Bobbie, has given her a Christmas tree ornament each year since she was born. Her love of that family tradition and the anticipation of the next year's gift make Cindy good at spotting ornaments that are not fancy and not expensive but loads of fun.

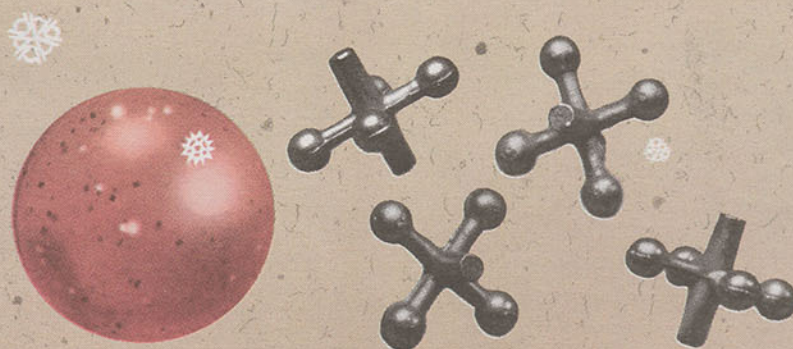


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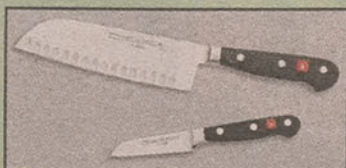


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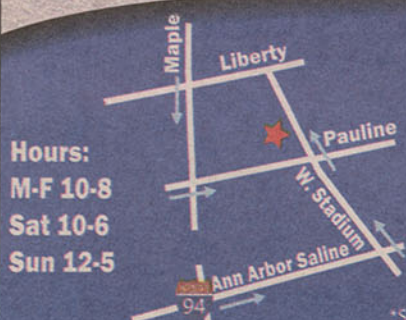
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# Ann Arbor Observer

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## Featured Wines

**Duboeuf Beaujolais — \$9.99** Reg. \$11.99



The 2005 Beaujolais Nouveaux started arriving on Thursday, November 17th.



**Rex Goliath Pinot Grigio — \$5.99** Reg. \$6.99

This wine expresses lovely aromatics of pear and honeydew. Bright, juicy flavors of citrus and apples that lead to a sweet mineral core. The finish is soft and lingering; thanks to a balanced acidity that carries the fruit well into the back of the palate. Yum. I can think of a number of foods that would be great with this wine.

**2003 Chateau de Seguin — \$8.99** Reg. \$11.99

On the nose, there are aromas of white fruits such as peaches and Granny Smith apples. In the mouth, this wine is lively and leaves a long, pleasant aftertaste. This wine could be enjoyed now, or it could benefit from a few years of aging.

**NV Varichon & Clerc Privilege Blanc de Blancs \$10.99** Reg. \$12.99

In northern France, the conditions are excellent for the production of sparkling wine using fine grapes such as Chardonnay and Colombard. The wines here remain light and full of finesse and therefore, are particularly suitable for making high quality sparkling wines.



**2000 Chateau Pavil de Luze Margaux — \$34.99** Reg. \$42.99

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## Bello Vino's Top 10 Holiday Gift Ideas

**10. Wild Mushroom Kits** — for the mushroom hunter on your list, Bello Vino is one of the few area stores where you can find Fresh Wild Mushrooms from Good Luck Farms in Ann Arbor.

**9. Bello Vino Gift Baskets** — a great gift idea for family, friends, and clients.



**8. Beers from around the world** — grab the beer, your globe, and chart your course.

**7. Holiday Nut Gift Packs** — the freshest gourmet nuts and dried fruits "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire..."

**6. Fine Chocolates** — Godiva, Joseph Schmidt and Lake Champlain, mmm...for the discriminating sweet tooth.



**5. Specialty Coffees and Teas** — the perfect way to start, or end your day.



**4. Assorted Steak Gift Box** — a variety of prime cuts from Bello Vino's Supreme Meats.



**3. Holiday Fruit Boxes** — Texas Red grapefruits, Florida Naval oranges, and Medjool dates help bring the warm weather home for the Holidays.

**2. Bello Vino Gift Certificates** — for the person who has everything.

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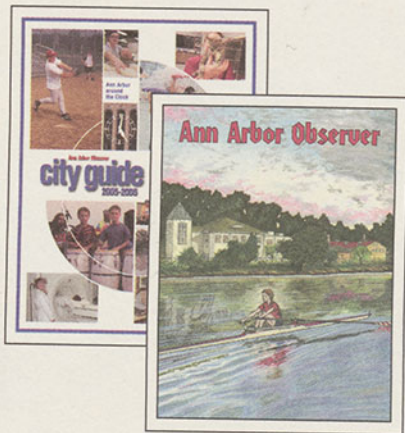


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## Tree vote:

Former city forester Paul Bairley thinks he knows at



least one reason the emerald ash borer millage went down to defeat in November: city officials removed the funds he'd recommended for replacing the dead trees. Bairley, who retired in June, says that he originally envisioned a \$4.5 million project that included removing 9,190 ash trees and replacing the bulk of them, using a variety of other species. But by the time the project made it to the voters this month, city officials had increased the estimated number of trees to be removed to 10,500—and stripped away the replanting. "By limiting the funding request to only the costs of dealing with an immediate safety concern, i.e., the removal of dead trees, we felt we were being prudent," says city administrator Roger Fraser. That may have been wise risk management, but it turned out to be bad politics. Bairley says he warned that the change could "jeopardize" passage of the \$4.2 million request. The decision to maximize removal at the expense of replacement turned a project Bairley believes had wide support into one that became a lightning rod for opposition.

**Gore & Schwarz:** At least two stereotypes were shot down last month when former veep and presidential candidate Al Gore spoke at Power Center on global warming. While the rap on Gore is that he's dull and pedantic, those lucky enough to snag a ticket heard a funny, relaxed, entertaining speaker who talked on a complex scientific subject for an hour and a half with barely a glance at his notes. Then, at a postspeech dinner at the Michigan League, U.S. representative Joe Schwarz convincingly countered the anti-environment image of today's GOP. Calling himself one of a "dying breed of moderate Republicans," Schwarz vowed to work on the issue in Congress.

"The sound science says global warming is happening," the congressman explained when we called him later. An M.D. who has followed the issue for years, Schwarz advocates the use of clean diesel and maximizing wind, solar, biomass, and nuclear power. And he would support the Kyoto Protocol "if we could get the third world, particularly China and India, to at least partially sign on." That's a formidable task—but then, "nobody said this is going to be easy," Schwarz cautions. "There's a middle ground here, and that's where we're going to have to tread."



# UP FRONT



**Sweet stash:** "I definitely think the drawer keeps the place running," says WUOM production assistant Jenna Crawford. She's referring to the "candy drawer" nestled in the back corner of Michigan Radio's production office on William Street. Because the metal drawer is stocked by employee donations, the selection ranges from treasures like full-size Kit Kat bars to less thrilling bite-size Gummi bears. "There are some kinds of candy that can't go in the drawer because they get eaten too fast," explains on-air host (and candy drawer founder) Charity Nebbe. "On the flip side, though, there are other candies that linger too long. I never put chocolate in the drawer, because that goes way too fast. Atomic Fireballs can sit around for months."



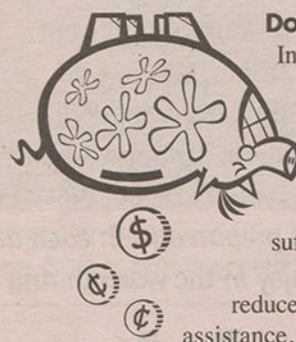
## Concrete solution:

Months after the city mandate, home owners on one block of Lincoln Avenue were still agonizing over sidewalk replacement.

With householders fixing cracked pavement all over town, contractors were hard to find. Quoted prices were steep, and some companies wouldn't promise to remove construction

debris or leave good pavement undamaged. Then one day, entrepreneurs David Williams and Donna Malski, the owners of two-week-old Victory Concrete, rode up in a shiny white truck. They canvassed door-to-door, offering affordable, skilled, and conscientious craftsmanship to home owners weary of the sidewalk problem. On their very first day they recruited eighty-five new customers. Williams's skill with the sledgehammer and Malski's low estimate of \$120 per square won the neighborhood over. To everyone's satisfaction, they replaced sixty-six damaged slabs in a week and a half, with plans to do approximately fifty more on the block. Victory Concrete now has enough work to

keep Williams and Malski in the sidewalk business for summers to come. Over the winter, Malski will go back to her design work and Williams, a journeyman carpenter, will go back to building homes. After all the muscle work she's been doing, Malski says that her fantasy goal is to buy a rowing machine and train for the Olympics.



## Donor fatigue:

In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many local nonprofits are suffering a triple whammy—reduced government

assistance, public donations diverted to the hurricane victims, and higher numbers of folks in need. Food Gatherers, for instance, has noted a 20 percent decrease in contributions. But what of the largest nonprofit in town—the U-M, which is in the midst of an ambitious campaign to raise \$2.5 billion by 2008? The short answer is that it's too soon to be sure, but early indications are that the drive won't be seriously hurt. Director of development communications Judy Malcolm explains that most of the money is being raised in large gifts that typically are allocated months or years in advance, including bequests that transfer to the university at the donor's death. But the hurricane relief effort has competed for smaller, spontaneous gifts. The U-M campaign tracks reasons people cite for rejecting its phone and mail solicitations—and this fall, many said they'd already given to hurricane relief.



## What does it cost?

**\$12**—box of ten holiday cards, based on designs by four local artists, at the Ann Arbor Art Center . . . **\$10**—ten cards, based on a drawing by a

Wines School student, to benefit the Washtenaw Area Council for Children . . . **\$165**—gift certificate that covers all adoption costs for a puppy, at the Humane Society of Huron Valley . . . **\$560**—gift to provide one week of thera-

peutic, caring, safe day care for a local homeless child, from SOS Community Services . . . **\$1,083**—gift to "fund one client for one year in his or her journey toward greater independence" in any of six programs at the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living.

## India link:

Musicians from around the world often come to Ann Arbor to perform, but the flow in the other direction is a lot slower. An exception is Robert Newcomb and Stephen Rush's recent tour to four Indian cities. Rush, who makes music with keyboards and a laptop computer, is a professor at the U-M music school, and Newcomb, a guitarist and sitarist, is the school's director of information technology. Together they create pieces that, while taking off from the leading edges of jazz and electronic improvisation, draw on Indian sounds. In India they performed at a conservatory in Delhi, an innovative arts school in Varanasi, and the American cultural center in Calcutta. In Chennai they even opened a rock concert. ("We played louder and faster, and it seemed to work," Newcomb says.)

The concerts came about through a former Ann Arbor resident who now runs the Varanasi program. "To come back here was a real culture shock," Newcomb says. "If I had stayed another month, I wouldn't have wanted to leave." Their upcoming concert at Canterbury House on December 3 (see Events) is "one way of putting this back together," Newcomb says—"and seeing how it's changed us."



## Funny money:

All over town, the quirkiest of currencies—the \$2 bill—is being linked to the quirkiest of burger joints.

We received two of them in change at Jack's Hardware and were told that they often floated into the store after lunches at the vintage counter that advertises its burgers as "cheaper than food." We paid for a sandwich at the People's Food Co-op with our \$2 bills, and the staff there, too, associated it with a certain bear-themed eatery. The path leading to the intersection of Division and Packard was clear, so we placed a phone call. "Don't give out the secret," Blimp Burger owner Rich Wagner pleaded. But why, we wondered, do you do it? "It's a tradition, a little off, a little crazy, like our name," said Wagner. "Plus it makes giving change quicker."



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# INSIDE

## ann arbor

### MEDIA

## Veterans Radio Goes National

A WAAM radio show now reaches 150 stations around the country.

**T**wo-year-old *Veterans Radio* already takes credit for furthering a story that became a national outrage. This month the show will be heard far beyond the bounds of WAAM's modest 5,000-watt signal. The weekly program, which streams across the world via the Internet, expects to sign a broadcast syndication deal with the Genesis Communications Network.

Bob Gould, one of the show's four producers, says the show's true beginning was in June 2003. He and Dale Throneberry, then both brokers for Blue Cross Blue Shield, had just learned that their commissions were going to be cut. They headed to a bar to commiserate. Throneberry, who has a master's degree in communications from the U-M, turned to Gould, who has a matching bachelor's degree and years of experience in TV and radio, and said, "I have an idea." He wanted to do a radio show about veterans. "I put out my hand, and that was the start of *Veterans Radio*," Gould says.

Throneberry, who's executive producer, met the other two producers through the Vietnam Veterans of America. Ken Rogge of Manchester served in the naval reserve and the air force as a broadcaster for the American Forces Radio and Television Service. Real estate company owner Gary Lillie is a former navy Seabee who helped build fire bases, housing, and airstrips during his 1966 tour in Vietnam.

The first show aired in November 2003 on WSDS, a 750-watt AM station. By July 2004 the program had graduated to WAAM and also could stream over the Internet—even to Baghdad, where soldiers have called in. "We have a really unique product," says Throneberry. "We talk to vets about their adventures." Shows mix music, discussion, interviews, stories from guests and callers, "welcome home" greetings to just-returned vets, a "medal of honor" recognition series—and even poetry.

Minnesota-based Genesis approached *Veterans Radio* after a contact made at a veterans' convention in Chicago this sum-



Bob Gould (in black shirt, with Dale Throneberry, Ken Rogge, and Gary Lillie) says the show is about "average, ordinary Americans doing extraordinary military things."

mer. "We wanted to do that [syndicate the show] from week one," says Gould. "But you have to show your bones—show them that you have staying power." They've proved that, he says, with stories about how many servicepeople in Iraq were killed in poorly armored vehicles, and the estimated 40 percent of vets returning with post-traumatic stress disorder. Throneberry, a former helicopter pilot in Vietnam, cites the long lines that veterans seeking treatment have to endure nationwide, and cuts to their benefits.

"It sounds hokey," Throneberry says, "but we're really about duty, honor, and country, and we just want our politicians to do what they say they're going to do. They promise vets benefits—increase this and increase that—and it doesn't happen."

Benefits aside, "I really wanted to stay as apolitical as possible," says Throneberry. When issues get political, "everybody starts yelling at each other," he says—as happened on one show that interviewed "Swift Boaters" from both sides of the controversy over senator John Kerry's Vietnam service.

Many guests are local veterans: Bob Hutchinson of Dexter, a flight navigator who crash-landed in Nazi-occupied territory; Don Burgett of Ann Arbor, a D-day paratrooper; and Ann Arbor nurses Mildred McGregor, who served in World War II, and Mary Bailey, who served in Vietnam.

"The mantra of the show," Gould says, "is about average, ordinary Americans doing extraordinary military things. For some Americans, being in the military was the defining moment in their lives—not

high school, not their marriages—the military. We try to provide the voice of the veteran, their stories."

*Veterans Radio* airs on WAAM, 1600 AM, every Sunday "at 1900 hrs Eastern," as its website, [veteransradio.net](http://www.veteransradio.net), says—that's 7 p.m. for you civilians.

### CONFRONTATIONS

## A Popular Film Hits Home

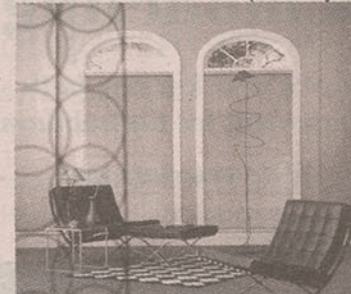
"Everybody's calling us," says Angela Dobson Welch. "I can't wait to see it."

**S**he's referring to the movie *Good Night, and Good Luck*, about legendary broadcaster Edward R. Murrow. Angela and her husband, Lyn Welch, have a special connection to the film: it features footage from 1954 depicting Lyn's late father, Boston attorney Joseph Welch, confronting anticommunist zealot senator Joseph McCarthy.

Governor Tom Dewey of New York asked Welch to represent the U.S. Army in hearings before McCarthy's Senate subcommittee. It wasn't an easy decision: before Welch agreed, he called both his sons to ask whether they were worried about the consequences. "McCarthy was known not only to trash the people he despised but also to trash their families," explains Lyn Welch, an all-but-retired architect and

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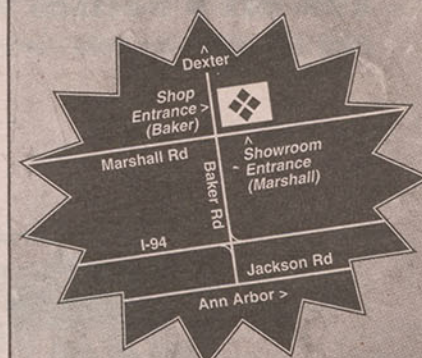
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INSIDE ANN ARBOR *continued*

## Calls & Letters

### Ash borers and parking spaces

Our November Inside Ann Arbor story on the city election mistakenly said that a proposed city emerald ash borer millage would replace as well as remove infected trees. Our October feature on the infestation had it right: the tax was targeted only at removal. Opposed by the Sierra Club, the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce, and the *Ann Arbor News*, the millage went down to defeat.

Mayor John Hieftje called to point out a second error in November's Inside Ann Arbor. While he doesn't think all 200 public parking spaces at the closed First and Washington structure need to be replaced at that site, he told the Downtown Development Authority's partnerships committee that he could support up to one floor of public parking there, which we estimate would provide about sixty spaces. Hieftje favors replacing the rest of the lost spaces underneath the current "Kline's lot" at William and Ashley.

### Affordable skateboarding

Alex Dombroski of Red Belly Boardshop called to say that our November feature on skateboarders profiled a group of "great kids" but may have given newcomers an exaggerated impression of the cost of the sport. We'd quoted a figure of \$60-\$80 to replace a damaged board deck. Dombroski pointed out that he sells decks for as little as \$30. With careful shopping at his store, Dombroski said, "you could get shoes, a shop [store brand] deck, and a T-shirt for eighty dollars."

As for those expensive tickets, Dombroski added, they're much less of an issue when kids have access to good public skateboard parks. He's been skating long enough to remember the original ramp at Vets Park—a half pipe so demanding, he says, that it was "like having a ski resort where the only run was a double black diamond." The current ramp at Buhr Park is more accessible, but it's no match for facilities in other Michigan towns like Mason, East Lansing, Huntington Woods, and Birmingham. Said Dombroski, "We're definitely into Ann Arbor offering a free skate park."

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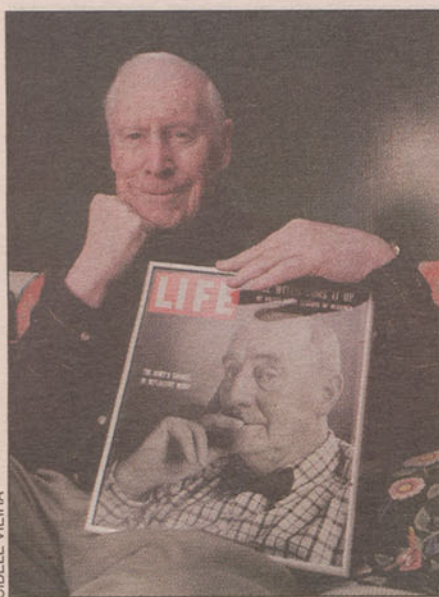
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Lyn Welch with his famous father. Joseph Welch got his sons' permission before agreeing to take on red-baiting senator Joseph McCarthy.

engineer. "My father was very concerned." But both gave their dad the go-ahead.

According to Lyn, his father talked to president Dwight Eisenhower about the assignment, and Eisenhower told him to call on vice-president Richard Nixon if he needed any help. However, Nixon himself had a reputation as a red-baiter, and when Welch asked him to retrieve some material from the FBI, Nixon never followed through.

The movie includes actual footage from the army-McCarthy hearings. At the most dramatic moment, one of television's most famous, McCarthy accused a young lawyer in Welch's office of being a former member of a communist front organization. "Until this moment, senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness," Welch responded. Shortly afterward, the attorney asked, "Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last?" When the exchange was over, the room burst into applause. Many saw that event as the beginning of the end for the demagogue senator, whom the Senate censured later that year.

The incident made Joseph Welch so famous that a few years later he was cast as a judge in the movie *Anatomy of a Murder*. Lyn Welch recalls that his dad was the only cast member who needed to read his lines. Still, "he read very well," Lyn emphasizes. Joseph Welch died in 1960 at age sixty-nine.

## CAUSES

### Shelter Politics

"If the humane society cannot be wild and woolly," asks board member Paul Gallagher, "who can be?"

The Observer's October article on Tanya Hilgendorf, the dynamic interim executive director of the Humane Society of Huron Valley, produced an unexpected response: we heard from an HSHV member who said she was part of a coalition that was trying to get Hilgendorf fired.

Working lives and personal lives that revolve around wanting the best for animals can produce a potent mix of emotions. HSHV is a membership organization, governed by the 1,300 supporters who make annual gifts of at least \$100. Factions within HSHV's membership have been a perennial pitfall for the nonprofit, which has run through five executive directors in as many years. Still, with new blood on the board of directors, a budget of \$1.8 million, and an agencywide effort to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses, some things have been looking up since Hilgendorf's appointment in February.

But the year has been hard on some of the most active members and volunteers. At a tense open board meeting in late September, several challenged Hilgendorf and the board over poor communication (there was no public notice of the meeting), as well as the unexplained firing of shelter

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Tim Athan



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operations director Sherry Silk. In response, staff members praised Hilgendorf and criticized some of the volunteers, protesting what one called their "complaints and insults."

Under volunteer coordinator Helen DePinto, HSHV has built up a cadre of more than 1,200 volunteers, who help out with everything from daily dog walking to remodeling the shelter. "Volunteers are . . . the backbone of a nonprofit," said a shocked member-volunteer who asked not to be identified. "I felt threatened as one staff member after another spoke out against us—with [board president Bob] Tetens and Hilgendorf letting it continue."

"I don't really think the staff were criticizing the volunteers," Hilgendorf responds. "There's this small group of people that call themselves 'the coalition,' and they had begun to sort of spread the rumor that they wanted to close the shelter, that the animals weren't being well taken care of. And the staff heard these rumors from other volunteers, and I think they came to the meeting feeling defensive. . . . I think [they came] to defend themselves, but not to attack. I think on the whole they respect and appreciate the volunteers a great deal."

Hilgendorf's critics tend to be Silk's admirers. "How do you justify firing a shelter operations director who in one year [2004] increased animal intakes by almost thirty-six percent and adoptions by forty-five percent?" asks member-volunteer Lori Dames. Silk worked with other shelters in southeastern Michigan to "cherry pick" desirable dogs that otherwise would have been euthanized and bring them to HSHV for adoption.

Hilgendorf says she has no problem with that: "If there's an animal in Jackson County that's healthy and that's going to be euthanized and it's adoptable, then I

think it's great that it can come here and get adopted." But, she says, "when it comes to filling the cages, you have to do it in a thoughtful way." Under new operations director Kelly Schwartz, Hilgendorf expects that HSHV will take in about 8,000 animals this year—down about 20 percent from 2004, but typical of the average intake over the last decade.

Paul Gallagher, a labor attorney and volunteer dog walker whom members elected to the board in June, sees open debate as healthy. In an e-mail, Gallagher says he is "willing to tolerate open discussion of issues, competing goals within an organization, and friction in general." In fact, he sees "friction as a tool of improvement rather than . . . a destructive force."

"Our contributors, staff, volunteers, and members are aware of the wild and woolly history and nature of the HSHV, but they continue to support the organization as a whole," Gallagher continues. "Just like some dogs will stray from the path, we sometimes lose members and staff, but as a team we try to soldier on in furtherance of the mission."

Hilgendorf, whose appointment was recently made permanent, says that emotions have cooled since the September meeting. Though a few longtime volunteers remain estranged, many more continue to help out daily at the shelter, and she hopes to expand their role in the future. Tetens calls volunteers "the lifeblood of an organization" and says, "Without their support and involvement, HSHV could not do what it does for the community."

*Lately the board seems to be more open to dialogue with HSHV's volunteers and members. In a move toward greater transparency, HSHV is now posting board minutes, financial statements, and meeting schedules on its website (hshv.org). How the membership responds will soon be tested: another open board meeting is scheduled for December 19.*

## question corner

**Q. There are three crosswalk signs on Plymouth Road. Why is the one at Bishop so much more brightly lit at night than the others, at Beal and Traver Village?**

A. The latter two signs are newer; to save electricity, they use light-emitting diodes rather than fluorescent bulbs. They should be just as bright, but some of the LEDs have failed. The city is working with the manufacturer to fix the problem.

**Q. Are the Anns for whom, some say, Ann Arbor is named, buried here?**

A. No. Ann Barry Allen, the wife of co-founder John Allen, eventually gave up on her feckless husband and returned to her native Virginia. She was buried in 1875 in Augusta Stone Church Graveyard at Fort Defiance. Mary Ann Rumsey, Ann Arbor's first mother, remarried soon after her husband Elisha Rumsey's

death in 1827. She continued to migrate westward, dying in Indiana in 1845.

**Q. There is a lovely house on Golfside across from Kmart. As the years have gone by, it has become less than lovely, and I have been concerned that someone would take it down. Lately I have noticed that it is all fixed up. What's going on?**

A. The onetime home was designed by the Bulgarian-born architect Ralph Gerganoff (1887–1966), designer of a great many buildings in the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor area. Originally connected to Washtenaw by a pine-tree-lined driveway, it was for twenty years the home of Pierian Press, a publisher of academic books and databases. A new owner is currently fixing the house up for sale or lease as part of a planned 20,000-square-foot office complex.

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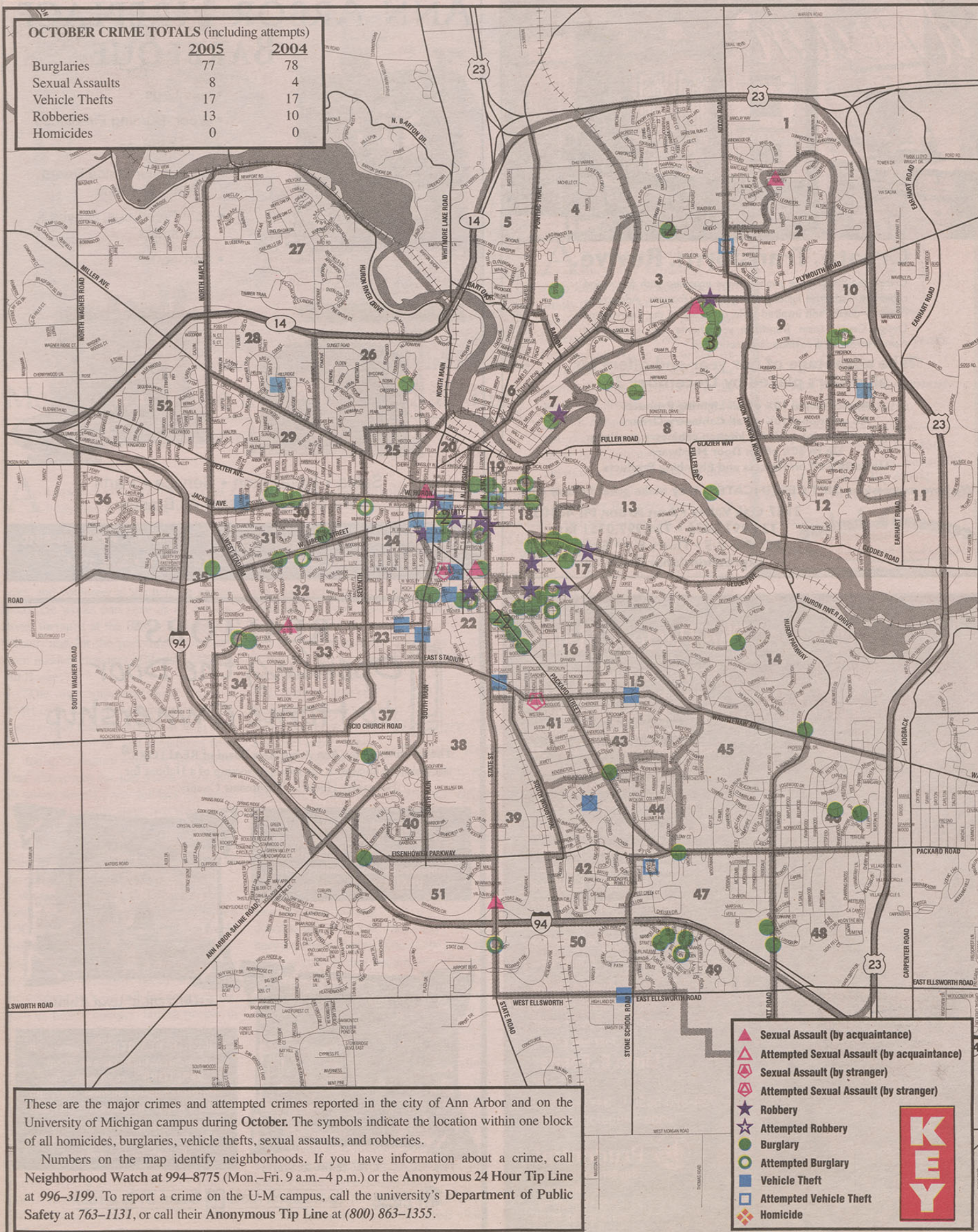
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# CRIME MAP

## OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2005	2004
Burglaries	77	78
Sexual Assaults	8	4
Vehicle Thefts	17	17
Robberies	13	10
Homicides	0	0



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the city of Ann Arbor and on the University of Michigan campus during October. The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call Neighborhood Watch at 994-8775 (Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.) or the Anonymous 24 Hour Tip Line at 996-3199. To report a crime on the U-M campus, call the university's Department of Public Safety at 763-1131, or call their Anonymous Tip Line at (800) 863-1355.

- ▲ Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
- ▲ Attempted Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
- ◆ Sexual Assault (by stranger)
- ◆ Attempted Sexual Assault (by stranger)
- ★ Robbery
- ★ Attempted Robbery
- Burglary
- Attempted Burglary
- Vehicle Theft
- Attempted Vehicle Theft
- ◆ Homicide

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## ANN ARBORITES



MARGARET WHITE TEALL

### McDonald House manager Jim Salisbury

*A former MP's new career*

At six feet one, with a hulk of a body and a booming voice, Jim Salisbury doesn't come across as a touchy-feely kind of guy. But in his early thirties, he abandoned his former career as an army military policeman and a security guard to work and volunteer in the helping professions. He works part time as an occupational therapist at the U-M's Kellogg Eye Center, and for the past three years he's been resident manager at Ronald McDonald House.

"The most important thing we do at RMH is to support the families with seriously sick or injured children at Mott Hospital at the U of M, and sometimes from St. Joe's," Salisbury explains. Its twenty-nine rooms rent for just \$10 a night, and no one is turned away for lack of funds. The average family stays two weeks, and last year RMH had an occupancy rate of 93 percent. About half of the hospitalized children are cardiology patients; many of the rest are sick newborns.

As resident manager, Salisbury, thirty-nine, oversees all operations between 4:30 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. five days a week. From 4:30 until 9 p.m. he works in the office supervising volunteers and responding to family members' needs. The rest of the evening he's on call for emergencies, such as power outages, letting people in who have forgotten the key code to unlock the front door, or the occasional clogged toilet. He lives on site in a two-bedroom apartment.

"Our primary mission is to provide a 'home away from home' for people," he says. "It sounds clichéd, but that's exactly what we do." Several areas in the building are furnished with couches, chairs, lamps, quilts—like a living room or family room—to encourage families to hang out, talk, and support each other. In contrast, the bedrooms are deliberately kept spartan.

"Bare bones," Salisbury describes them—furnished with a "bed and a dresser."

Salisbury says he hesitated before taking the job, fearing it might be too depressing. But it hasn't been. There are "hundreds of happy stories," he says, noting that many parents, after being told there was no hope, have found encouragement at the U-M Hospitals.

Late one afternoon, Salisbury is off scouting a crib for a new family while two volunteers staff the office. They provide one resident with an iron and another with an Ethernet cable. When Salisbury gets back he strikes up a conversation with a small boy whose family has just checked in. At first the manager's abundant presence seems to intimidate the boy, but Salisbury puts him at ease without talking down to him. "Do you want a toy?" Salisbury asks him. "Let's get down the treasure chest so you can pick out a new toy." Wide eyed, the boy selects a plaything from the shoebox-size chest. He asks if he has to bring it back; Salisbury replies, with a friendly firmness, "No. That's yours now."

Salisbury has "a wonderful combination of physical size and an understanding of people that works together nicely... an imposing fellow, but he's a teddy bear, really," says RMH executive director Dave McDowell. He notes that Salisbury's background as a military policeman and security guard makes him "good at reading situations and defusing them."

The Santiago family of Chicago lived at RMH for nearly a year and a half while their son Jordan waited for a heart trans-

plant. The eighteen-month-old boy's skin was always tinted blue, and he couldn't walk more than a few steps at a time. When he finally received his new heart, it was only a couple of weeks before he was running around in the RMH playground. Salisbury has stayed in touch with the Santiagos and recently visited them during a trip to Chicago. Jordan is now a healthy four-year-old.

An Ann Arbor native, Salisbury was attending Forsythe Junior High School when his family moved to Arizona. He graduated from high school there and bummed around for a few years before he enlisted in the army; he served six and a half years and was posted to Germany. In 1999, in the midst of a divorce, he moved back to Ann Arbor. (His ex-wife and two daughters live in Saline.) He knew he didn't want to be a cop anymore: "I didn't want to mess

with anybody when they're going five miles an hour over the speed limit. . . . It just didn't suit my personality. I'm a sort of live-and-let-live kind of person."

While in the army, he injured a knee traversing an obstacle course and needed physical therapy. "That introduced me to the whole world of rehab, and I started exploring careers in physical and occupational therapy," Salisbury says. In his position at Kellogg he works primarily with

low-vision seniors, helping them adapt to their vision loss and maintain their independence.

"I love my jobs immensely. One of the things I like best is that [working nights at RMH] allows me to pursue all my other interests as well," says Salisbury. He moderates four Yahoo! online discussion groups

on several social issues. One group, Feminist Men, grew out of his concern that his daughters, Chelsea, sixteen, and Kara, eighteen, would be growing up in a sexist society.

His politics have turned leftward since his army days. When he entered the service, he was exposed to people from various ethnicities, religions, and social strata. "When you're living that closely with people, twenty-four-seven, you realize that everyone is the same—that we're all more alike than not."

"I know to be happy I need to feel like I'm part of the solution," says Salisbury. "I feel like I've been evolving as a person my whole life—and have just recently found out what I want to be when I grow up."

—Marilyn Moran

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# SNOW REMOVAL

## City of Ann Arbor

### STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

**\* On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses**—in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

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### SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council

has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to \$500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk.

Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

**Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor**

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003



# Our Town versus Big City



*The clash of cultures over downtown.*

by Vivienne Armentrout

**T**wo bold initiatives were launched nearly simultaneously in 2003, both promising to ensure Ann Arbor's future as one of Michigan's preeminent communities. In an interview with the *Observer* at the time, mayor John Hieftje said that it "makes sense" to consider both a millage to preserve a greenbelt around Ann Arbor, and rewriting planning rules to encourage more housing downtown.

That October, city council established the Ann Arbor Downtown Residential Task Force, charged with examining barriers to housing density in the downtown and recommending ways to remove them. Then, in November, Ann Arbor voters enthusiastically endorsed a millage of 0.5 mills for thirty years, "for preservation and protection of parkland, open space, natural habitats, and city sourcewaters." Thus, two of the dominant themes in Ann Arbor's recent history were joined. These are the push for parks and open space, with controls on development; and the push for intensive downtown development, with the promise of more affordable housing. In the past these two impulses have been at odds with one another. Now, with a vigorous community debate taking place about the future of the city, especially its downtown, the question is whether the themes have become complementary and mutually supporting, or are still in conflict.

The drive for parks and open space has been part of a neighborhood-centered wish for stability, tranquillity, and quality of life. While recreation and important natural features (especially the Huron River) have been considerations, a wish to slow or stop development in and around neighborhoods has been an important factor at least since the 1980s. From Black Pond to Bird Hills to Cardinal Woods to Bluffs Park to Dicken Woods, the story has become familiar: a development is proposed on land that has been open space since anyone can remember; the neighbors meet, discover important environmental

benefits to the property, and persuade the city to buy it as a park. In his first campaign for city council in 1999, John Hieftje aligned himself with this impulse. His campaign brochure promised to "protect neighborhoods"; it went on, "We are being overwhelmed by uncontrolled growth on the fringes of the First Ward. No one is asking what effect this will have on the people who already live here. Projects that diminish our quality of life should be rejected."

The conflict between growth and



quality of life has extended to the downtown and has been informed by the historic preservation movement (*Observer*, November 2005). Since the city's founding, cycles of development repeatedly have demolished familiar downtown landmarks and imposed new buildings that are out of scale with historic structures. But preservationists saw the waves of high-rise construction in the 1960s and 1980s as particularly destructive, and between 1989 and 1992 five new historic districts were established downtown.

Both of these urges have frustrated two other interest groups: developers and affordable-housing advocates. While the one has pointed to potential increases in business opportunity and tax base, the other has decried the movement of Ann Arbor toward being an enclave of the well-to-do. In the last decade, these two forces have found common cause in the

idea of developing more and taller buildings downtown.

## The politics of parks

The awkward political dynamic for many city council members over the last twenty years is that a lot of the voters they depend on for political support are neighborhood and parks advocates whose views they do not share. Most Democratic council representatives have been affordable-housing advocates, and Republicans have been business and development supporters. But the Ann Arbor public has consistently voted for quality of life.

Bob Elton, who chaired the citizens' group that put the first parks acquisition millage on the 1988 ballot, recalls that council Democrats refused to sponsor it because they were focused on an affordable-housing millage. But the

central downtown to a "floor-area ratio" of 300 percent—roughly the same as for Main Street's late-nineteenth-century brick storefronts. An additional 300 percent FAR is offered as a premium for projects that include housing. Thus, the maximum height for buildings containing housing that occupy their entire lot area would be six floors. With the new historic districts, the total effect was to restrain the development of large new projects.

Meanwhile, as affordable-housing advocates continued to press the city to devote more resources to housing, they came into conflict with downtown retailers, whose top priority was more parking. In a 1990 opinion piece in the *Ann Arbor News*, housing advocate Jane Barney asserted that downtown already had plenty of parking. Arguing that "what the downtown needs is downtown residents," she urged council to promote housing instead.



(Above) The Downtown Development Authority at Ashley Mews. The group coordinated a public-private partnership that provided residential density and affordable housing while recycling city-owned property into a privately owned, taxpaying development. (Left) Mayor Hieftje launched the debate over building more housing downtown, but sees the "library lot" as a potential public space—perhaps a skating rink.

affordable-housing tax lost badly, while the parks tax won big—and Republicans, who had supported the parks millage, were startled to find themselves swept into power. More recently, council's approval of development projects over the objections of neighbors has been met with muttering and sometimes with outright revolt—like the one this past spring when a coalition supporting a "greenway" thwarted the Downtown Development Authority's plan to build a new parking structure on the west side of downtown (Inside Ann Arbor, November).

The city's current downtown development rules were adopted after the 1980s building boom. In its wake, a citywide process produced the 1988 Ann Arbor Downtown Plan, still in effect today and the basis for current downtown zoning. Though the plan does not impose any height limits, it restricts most buildings in

Mayor Liz Brater's controversial 1991 cancellation of a parking structure on the Kline's lot at Ashley and William can be traced directly to this sentiment.

Significant progress toward the goal of affordable housing was made in the next several years, including the establishment of Avalon Housing and Washtenaw Non-profit Affordable Housing Corporation; a collaboration with the county to replace the homeless shelter; and finally the council's appointment of a task force on affordable housing. The group's report, released in May 2000, turned a new corner. It called for mixed-use development, using the air rights over downtown structures for housing, streamlining approval processes, and reviewing regulations "to encourage some of the concepts of new urbanism." For the first time, affordable housing was linked to taller and denser downtown de-





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## Our Town versus Big City

continued

velopment, and these were stated as desirable urban goals.

### DDA at the center

From its inception in 1982, the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority has vigorously promoted and funded downtown development. The DDA's original development plan emphasized "public improvements that strengthen the downtown area," especially parking, pedestrian enhancements, and attracting new private development.

Almost immediately, the DDA became involved in two major projects: the ill-fated Tally Hall development (now Liberty Square) and the Ann-Ashley parking structure. At Tally Hall, it entered into a partnership with private developers to build a mini-mall (now used for offices) underneath a new parking structure. The Ann-Ashley structure enabled the construction of One North Main—and through "tax increment financing," the DDA was able to use the taxes produced by the new building to pay the debt on the structure (see box, right). In 1992 the authority took over management of the city's failing network of older parking structures, and is now completing a comprehensive program of renovation and replacement. It also launched a streetscape beautification program throughout downtown's business districts—the brick sidewalks and "pedestrian level" streetlights are the DDA's.

When the city renewed its commitment to the DDA in September 2003, the group adopted a new development plan. "The DDA is the only agency whose sole purpose is to safeguard the growth and vitality of the downtown . . . to anticipate changes in transportation, housing, service, and infrastructure needs," the plan states. "It is the only agency whose mission is to sustain that which is remarkable and necessary about Ann Arbor's downtown . . . supporting the goals and concepts of the Ann Arbor Downtown Plan [and] the Central Area Plan and advocating for the resources and policies that enable these plans to be realized." In other words, the DDA was claiming the role not only of maintaining downtown but of planning and directing its future as well.

The DDA has supported downtown development directly, with cash grants, and indirectly, by absorbing development costs such as parking and sidewalk construction. And the authority had plenty of money to do this. Because it collects all taxes resulting from new construction and renovation downtown, redevelopment can become a self-fueling engine, with the DDA pumping money into new development and then collecting the taxes generated by that development, which in turn feed still more development.

The DDA board, which is appointed by the mayor and city council, has typically consisted of real estate professionals and



downtown businesspeople. But it also has two strong affordable-housing activists, publisher Dave DeVarti and Legal Services of South Central Michigan executive director Bob Gillett, who have pushed the DDA to embrace affordable housing as one of its driving principles. With encouragement from city council, the DDA created a separate housing fund in 1997. And affordable housing has become one of the measures applied to many downtown developments seeking DDA assistance.

The construction of Ashley Mews, on Main south of William, demonstrated the new paradigm: the DDA coordinated a public-private partnership to provide residential density, affordable housing, and the recycling of a city-owned property into a privately owned, taxpaying development. The site, part of which was owned by the city, had sat for years as a civic embarrassment after an early development attempt failed. In 1999 the city signed an agreement with Syndeco Realty, the real estate arm of DTE Energy, to construct the James Ashley Mews—an eight-story retail-office-residential tower flanked by forty-seven townhouses. Syndeco paid the city \$400,000 for its property and agreed to reserve eight units of affordable housing to sell for just \$96,000 each. To help the project come together, the DDA contributed \$75,000 toward the housing, gave \$589,800 for the sidewalks and “mews”—a public walk-through linking Main and Ashley—and set aside 100 spaces in the Fourth and William parking structure for Syndeco’s permit parkers.

Parking is a major tool used by the DDA in helping developers—at \$35,000 per space, the parking Syndeco rents would cost \$3.5 million if built today. (Because all structure parking is subsidized, fees cover only part of that cost.) Corner House Apartments on State Street has seventy-six spaces in Liberty Square,

#### Follow the money.

The Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority is an advocate with a budget. It’s been extremely influential in shaping downtown, in large part because it can pay for improvements in areas where it is working to encourage development. And it has the money thanks to tax increment financing.

TIF funds are diverted from property taxes that normally would be paid to the city, county, and other public entities. (Before 1994 TIF could divert money from school taxes, but Proposition A halted that practice, except for projects already bonded.) The DDA gets only that portion of the tax that’s attributable to new development and improvements within the central business district. When a new development is constructed there and the property’s taxable value rises, other taxing authorities continue to collect taxes based on the original value—but the increase due to new construction goes to the DDA. Remodeling does not trigger a TIF transfer, but major reconstruction requiring a reassessment does.

The DDA currently collects the taxes on about 28.6 percent of the taxable value in the DDA district. For 2005, that works out to approximately \$3.33 million. And that’s why the authority is such a powerful player in the debate over downtown’s future.

—V.A.



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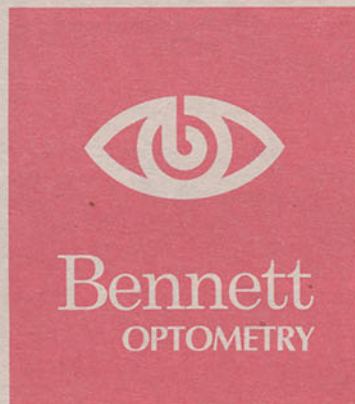


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# Our Town versus Big City

continued

twenty-one of them granted in perpetuity. The DDA currently is considering a request from developer McKinley to lease 252 spaces for twenty years for tenants of the former TCF Bank building, recently rechristened McKinley Towne Centre.

The DDA's partnerships committee has even made direct financial contributions to some projects—as "TIF rebates" that return part of the taxes collected from the property to the developer. The committee has strenuously debated which developments should receive these goodies. Its guidelines say that a public benefit should result, and that the grant should be necessary to the project's viability. But enthusiasm for projects that increase housing downtown has sometimes overridden these guidelines. No one claimed that the DDA's help was necessary to build Liberty Lofts (the condos going up within the shell of the old Eaton factory), and the only public benefit cited was the need for more downtown residents to preserve local businesses. Yet the committee gave it a grant of \$600,000.

City council has taken DDA's project management abilities and financial muscle to heart, and has repeatedly assigned it the job of planning for downtown projects. In 2003 the DDA was asked to develop a comprehensive "three-site plan" for city-owned parking lots on the west side of downtown, and council also gave it major responsibility for planning the redevelopment of the old YMCA. With the DDA's message of more residential density and affordable housing through downtown development, it is not surprising that the council assigned it a strong role in the downtown residential task force.

## The greenbelt link

The 2003 greenbelt millage campaign was frankly antidevelopment. "The beautiful rural landscape just outside town enhances the vibrant quality of life we experience in Ann Arbor," its literature said. "Uncontrolled sprawl development . . . threatens the high quality of life we enjoy." The campaign specifically targeted "out-of-town sprawl developers" as the bad guys.

Yet at the same time, some developers and Realtors were donating thousands of dollars to the Proposal B campaign. McKinley alone donated \$11,000. Meanwhile, a discussion about downtown density was going on in the background of the greenbelt campaign. In news stories developers described their frustration with the way Ann Arbor's citizen-heavy review process stymied their projects, especially those requiring rezoning.

Developers charged that the greenbelt would simply add barriers to growth. But some supporters of the greenbelt argued that it would actually help win public acceptance of more urban density. The *Ann Arbor News* quoted Mayor Hieftje as saying, "Once there's assurance that some

land can be set aside as agricultural or open space, we can redirect development where infrastructure already exists." Mike Garfield, the cochair of the greenbelt millage campaign, said that once open land was set aside, more dense development could become more palatable for Ann Arborites. Doug Kelbaugh, dean of the U-M's college of architecture and urban planning, later declared publicly that Ann Arbor has a "moral obligation" to accept its share of the region's growth. (Kelbaugh now says that he might better have described it as a "civic obligation.")

But Doug Cowherd, the originator of the greenbelt campaign, denies that there

**Doug Kelbaugh, dean of the U-M's college of architecture and urban planning, says that Ann Arbor has a "civic obligation" to accept its share of the region's growth.**



was any linkage with downtown density. He says that notion is being circulated by "a handful of developers and their political allies." Other advocates also say that their support for the greenbelt did not imply any acceptance of greater downtown density. "I think folks voted for a 'greenbelt,' period, and not for density—look at the language on the ballot," says environmental activist Gwen Nystuen. Neighborhood activist Dave Cahill agrees: "There was nothing on the ballot about downtown density. None of the campaign literature in favor of the millage mentioned downtown density. In fact, the campaign was anti-development. Who can forget the 'Big Developers Cry BOO on B' postcard with a picture of a bulldozer?"

Susan Pollay, the executive director of the DDA, acknowledges that downtown density was not included in the ballot language, but she says she had always assumed that the two were connected. She points to Portland, Oregon, where a growth boundary has led to high urban density and a transit-friendly design. And Ray Detter, who heads the DDA's citizen advisory council, says that his group also assumed the greenbelt would encourage more building downtown. "You have to provide people with alternatives," Detter says. "We desired it [the greenbelt] because it would encourage downtown density."

Whether or not voters saw a link,

there's no question that downtown density was on the table at city council when it created the downtown residential task force. The group's charge was "to explore the barriers to development and the opportunities to increase the number of downtown residences." Its members included three developers, two of them DDA members; two city council representatives; one planning commissioner; the mayor's assistant; and Doug Kelbaugh.

The DRTF delivered its report to council in June 2004. It begins with the assumption that increased density in the downtown is an obvious good. In this it reflects the views of Kelbaugh, who has expressed an almost utopian vision of the benefits of New Urbanism. Concerned with the environmental impact of an automobile-based culture and its impact on social equity, he believes that transit-based, walkable urban environments are inherently desirable.

Mayor Hieftje also holds up the vision of the walkable, transit-friendly city and repeatedly speaks of the need to maintain a "vibrant" downtown. He defines this as what we currently enjoy on Main Street and State Street, where rather than being isolated in automobiles, people are walking, biking, and actively engaging one another in conversation.

"We don't want to go back to the nineteen-seventies, when downtown almost died," Hieftje says. "We can't stand in place. There are new threats out there, like lifestyle malls." Many on the DRTF and the DDA have stressed the importance of downtown residents to support local business. And beneath the hopes and fears lie some more basic motivations: development expands the city tax base, and the city has successfully pressured many developers to help pay for subsidized housing. Advocates also hope that adding units downtown will result in a trickle-down effect of more affordable housing for all.

The task force recommended that the city subsidize development of housing downtown, either through a millage (an idea that was quickly rejected) or by forgiving fees. It recommended streamlining the approvals process. At the suggestion of Fred Beal, one of the developers on the committee, it set numerical goals: 1,000 new housing units in the downtown by 2015 and 2,500 total by 2030. It recommended dense development on city-owned property (hence the three-site plan). But the recommendation that carried the most punch was to rezone most of downtown to permit bigger buildings. "In general, it is the intent . . . to allow for substantially greater height and density in downtown areas, and to eliminate all obsolete 'suburban style' zonings in near downtown areas," the report said. It suggested allowing buildings of eight to fifteen stories, depending on conditions.

Talk of buildings that tall might have shocked council members only a few years ago. But lately they have shown a willingness to approve taller buildings in spite of public protest, such as the eight-story Corner House Apartments and a proposed ten-story building at Glen and Ann. In recent DDA committee meetings, council reps and DDA members have

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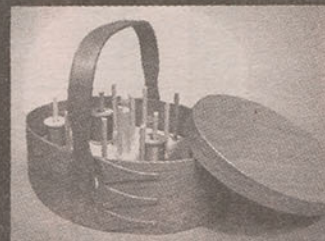
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## Our Town versus Big City

continued

seemed to have an almost giddy sense that the brakes are off. When staff suggested a six-to-eight-story building on the site of the closed Washington-First parking structure, council rep Chris Easthope pushed them to make it eight to ten stories, joking, "I'll take the bullet with the Fifth Ward on this one."

But not everyone shares the assumption that downtown density is an obvious good. At a public hearing on the DRTF report in April 2004, "I don't recall anyone that was enthusiastic about it," says Pat Ryan, a longtime neighborhood activist who attended the hearing. "The prospect of transforming downtown to accommodate many more residents didn't appeal to people. They [the DRTF] came here to do something that this community was not ready to do and perhaps never will be ready to do." Clearly, the downtown development advocates had some selling to do.

### Elusive consensus

City council officially received the task force report in June 2004. That December it directed the DDA, the planning commission, and city departments to take steps to implement the report. Jean Carlberg, a council rep who also sits on the planning commission, says part of the reason for the delay was that planning staff were not able to handle the tasks required. (The planning department was undergoing reorganization at the time, with the planning director, Karen Popek Hart, leaving and the new manager, Mark Lloyd, just beginning work in September.) But even more, she says that it was clear that these changes would require a wider community discussion.

In May council hired California-based Calthorpe Associates to facilitate that discussion. The firm's founder, Peter Calthorpe, is an internationally recognized authority on urban planning and New Urbanism. The real work here, however, was to be done by Calthorpe's associate, Joseph (Joey) Scanga. Scanga's mission was to recommend changes to the downtown zoning map to facilitate density—and to do it with public consensus.

Scanga had his work cut out for him. It was clear that the objective was the denser, higher downtown advanced by the DRTF. At the first public workshop in July, for example, facilitators were instructed that "tables are not given the 'no growth' option." Instead, participants were asked to choose between development according to the current zoning (which Scanga said would permit 575 new residential units) or more liberal rules that would permit 1,000 or 2,500 new units.

But neither Scanga nor the city council was prepared for the independence and irreverence of the Ann Arbor body politic. While many of the tables selected the densest option, their comments often told another story. "We weren't sure we wanted to live in this city when we were done,"

reported Sabra Briere for her table. And the crowd absolutely refused to follow the rules. Participants were given chips representing precise square footages and uses, which they were supposed to paste neatly into place on maps of the downtown. Instead, many cut up green paper and pasted it all over the maps to represent new urban parks, including pocket parks, fountains, and even a park with an amphitheater on the Brown Block parking lot on Huron. Several proposed submerging a major street (Huron, Liberty, or Washington) to make a green pedestrian walkway. Extra green paper was glued on the tops of most tall buildings, to indicate green roofs or rooftop parks. And every table showed a vivid green stripe along the course of

**Stunned, consultant Joey Scanga mused aloud about his choice of planning as a career—and said he had "no clue" how he was going to sum the session up.**

Allen Creek and the Ann Arbor Railroad—the disputed greenway.

Stunned, Scanga mused aloud about his choice of planning as a career—and said he had "no clue" how he was going to sum the session up. But at his recommendation, council hastily appointed a greenway task force, chaired by local landscape architect Peter Pollack, to articulate some plans. A concept paper prepared by the task force calls for a greenway to follow the Allen Creek floodplain "and its watershed." (The task force's final recommendation is not due until October 2006.) In subsequent workshops, Scanga's maps showed the area along the buried creek as a low-density zone.

The second workshop was even more farcical, with participants branching out into pure fantasy but still with plenty of green paper. Ideas included linking downtown buildings with "flying" green roofs, a museum (subject not specified) on Huron, a grocery on the old YMCA site (already committed to a housing development), a streetcar down Huron, a city hall with retail shops on the ground floor, and a trolley running from Argo Pond to Briarwood.

The conceptual plan unveiled at the third workshop on November 3 will form the basis for Scanga's recommendation to council, which is due on December 5. Currently, downtown is a zoning patchwork, with parcels and buildings zoned for very different uses right next to each other. The DRTF recommended having only two downtown zones. Scanga's conceptual plan calls for six, arranged by height—the tallest buildings would be allowed in the central downtown (along Huron, for example)—with heights "feathered" down to the edges of the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Mayor Hieftje and planning commission chair Jennifer Santi Hall have both expressed support for simplified zoning classifications. Hall is particularly

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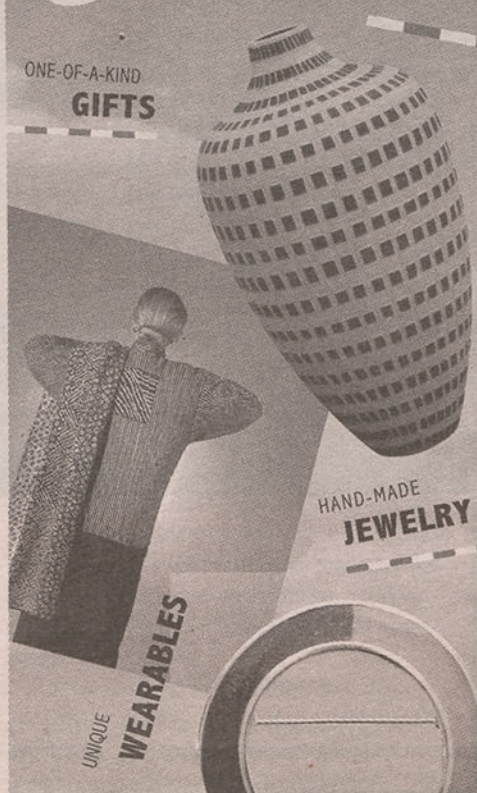
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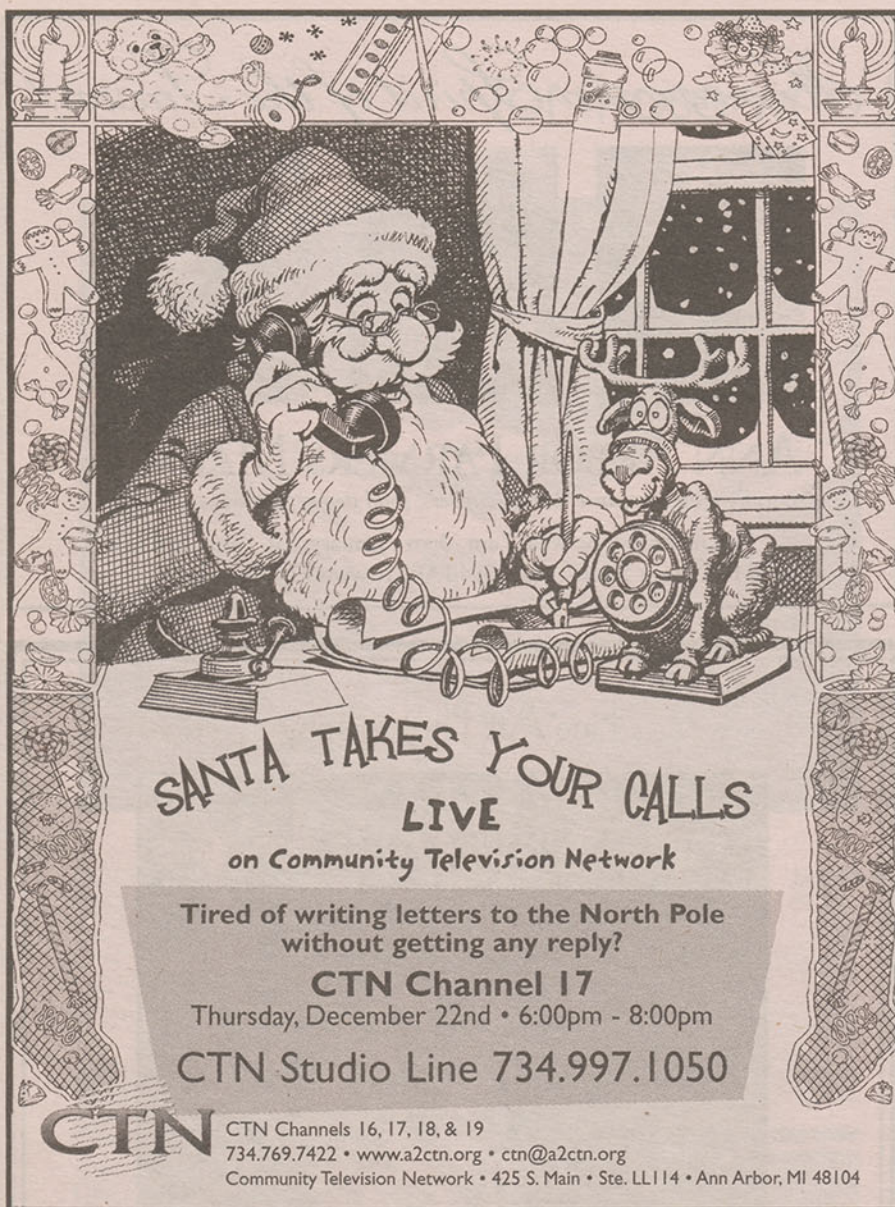
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## Our Town versus Big City

continued

keen to eliminate the need for rezoning, a time-consuming and uncertain process, especially for planned unit developments (PUDs), in which the city and developer negotiate what amounts to a unique zoning ordinance for the site. Planning manager Mark Lloyd says many developers decide to seek PUDs for flexibility. But Hall says that PUDs also extend the time it takes to review a project, and force developers to make concessions. Rick Hills, a U-M law

"The downtown area has only a token amount of parks—it is the biggest weakness in our park system," Cowherd argues. "If we ever hope to attract a meaningful number of people to live downtown, we will have to provide green space to draw them there."

### Will it sell?

No matter what zoning changes the city makes, developers will build housing only if it makes economic sense. According to Dena Belzer, a consultant to Calthorpe, most new condos downtown are priced at around \$400,000—out of reach of about three-quarters of the city's households. The stiff price tag reflects not only the high costs of land but also such considera-

With all of this, city council members have one more decision. Have they really resolved the differences and the culture clash between the density advocates and the merry citizens of Ann Arbor who applied all that green construction paper? Will the Ann Arbor voting public really support the kinds of actions needed and the consequences of forging ahead to a taller, denser downtown?

At a joint session with council, DDA, and the planning commission, Russ Collins, a DDA member who is the executive director of the Michigan Theater and a dedicated urbanist, scoffed at the notion of green space downtown, calling it "suburban." In his vision, Ann Arbor's future lies in creating an exciting twenty-four-hour urban environment. Conan Smith, who chaired Ann Arbor's "cool cities task force," agrees that younger professionals are looking for that—but adds that many members of the creative class are also family people who want to live in a neighborhood with space for their kids to play in and access to recreational amenities. They have a strong outdoor ethic.

Many density advocates sneer at their opponents' NIMBY ("not in my backyard") mindset. But Julie Weatherbee, a U-M information technology specialist who lives near downtown on South Main Street, defends the neighborhood perspective. "Of course people want to protect their quality of life. The city and developers love to look at any opposition of a project as unfounded NIMBYism, but the truth is, the people who live in an area know the most about that area. Take the 828 Greene Street project in my neighborhood. We went to the planning commission and city council and said, 'There are sewer problems, flooding problems, parking problems, and lots of vacant apartments already in our neighborhood,' and everyone cried NIMBY and said we just didn't want an apartment there. But all of our concerns were real and based on many years of experience. So council went ahead and approved a building that we know will have problems. Which is the stronger motivation here—greed or NIMBYism?"

The DRTF report identifies a "not-in-my-backyard community sentiment that is supported by planning and council representatives" as a barrier to more downtown housing, and suggests that "a quicker, better coordinated, more certain development review process could reduce development costs throughout the city." It recommends setting time benchmarks for approval of projects, and reducing the regulatory hurdles often used by neighborhood groups in opposing projects.

The prospect of such far-reaching changes has both proponents and opponents looking anxiously toward December 5, when Calthorpe's report reaches the council. Proponents hope council will approve simplified zoning and a speedier review process that will clear the way for a new generation of residential buildings downtown. And that's exactly what opponents fear.

In some ways, the name of a bakery on Miller says it all—"Big City, Small World." City council will be called on for some real statesmanship to keep both. ■



GRIFIN LINDSAY

Julie Weatherbee fought a planned apartment on Greene Street—only to be dismissed as a "NIMBY."

professor who presented a lecture on zoning as part of the public discussion on the downtown, says that the recent trend in zoning practice is toward transparency, where a set of rules is plainly set forth and developers who follow those rules can develop by right—without negotiation. Hall says she is a big fan of this transparency. But Hills also cautions that the type of zoning that involves negotiation—like PUDs—is the only way cities can get concessions they want. Making zoning by right deprives cities of a potent tool. This has certainly been the case for Ann Arbor, where the city has extracted substantial contributions for affordable housing from developers in the PUD process under the "public benefit" clause.

Council rep and planning commissioner Jean Carlberg is concerned about losing the ability to require these contributions. She says that council has communicated this concern to Scanga, and has asked that his new zoning plan retain some flexibility for the city in dealing with developers.

The greenway remains a big question. Although the public workshops revealed a lot of support for the idea, density advocates show limited enthusiasm for it. (Hieftje likes to point out that the city already has a greenway, along the Huron River.) But Doug Cowherd demonstrated the power of the idea last spring, when he was able to fuse Old West Side neighborhood concerns, Allen Creek floodway issues, and the drive for parks and green spaces downtown to block plans to build a parking structure at First and William.

tions as the need to provide parking, trade-offs and allowances associated with PUD zoning, staging problems, and the need to retrofit utilities. The DDA recently estimated that it would cost \$300 per square foot to build condominiums on the site of the old parking structure at First and Washington, *not including either land costs or the cost of parking*. So even a 1,000-square-foot apartment will cost \$300,000 just to construct—already beyond the reach of most of the young professionals who have been described as a target group.

With the economics of market-rate housing marginal, affordable housing is virtually impossible. A local family of two earning \$37,500 yearly can afford to pay only \$75,000 for a home. Yet at \$300 a square foot, even a 650-square-foot efficiency would cost \$195,000. To make it affordable, most of the price would have to be subsidized. Jean Carlberg says that projects can run into problems with their bank financing if they do not show profitability of 10 to 15 percent—and with the high cost of building downtown, even buildings of ten stories may not be profitable enough to subsidize many affordable units. Consequently, Carlberg is pessimistic that any significant amount of affordable housing can be built downtown. The city council quietly agreed last year, when it passed a resolution allowing developers to make a contribution to the affordable-housing fund in lieu of providing affordable housing within their projects.

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# Calling Dr. Amaker

*From Frankenstein to Freud.*

by Craig Ross

**I**n the summer of 2004, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski briefly contemplated the greener but more jaded pastures of the NBA. Michigan basketball fans endured a few days of anxiety, fearful that the U-M's Tommy Amaker (a former Krzyzewski assistant) might inherit the Duke job. But Coach K stayed put, and Michigan's inexorable push back to the higher echelons of college basketball seemed just a matter of time. To many fans, Tommy was the Moses of U-M basketball.

I was one of those fans, and last year in the Observer I argued it wasn't even a question whether Michigan would make it to the NCAA tournament in the spring of 2005. Rather, I felt the matter at hand was the fan response to the Wolverines. Would the raucous fans of the 2003-2004 NIT championship team show up for the 2004-2005 season? Or would it remain business as usual at Crisler—a half-capacity, half-comatose, and mostly blasé crowd?

That concern, in retrospect, was premature—or, some may say, laughable.

Clouds on the season began to form when the team's most consistent player, Lester Abram, looked awkward in shooting the ball in exhibition games. My fear that something was wrong blossomed when Abram shot five of twenty-two from the floor in the first two nonconference games, missing all eight of his attempts behind the three-point line. Abram is a terrific shooter (50 percent from the floor and 41 percent from beyond the arc are his norms); it was obvious, at this early juncture, that something was amiss. That "something" turned out to be Lester's left

(shooting) shoulder. After the U-M's wins against Binghamton and Colorado in the preseason NIT, Lester went under the knife and was gone for the year.

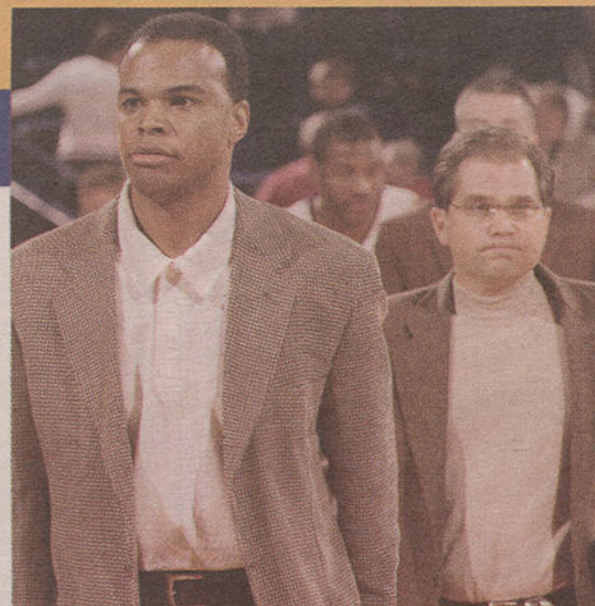
Michigan went on to beat up on Sacramento State for its third win of the tournament, but then had to play national power Arizona in New York City in the semifinals. Amaker elected a three-guard rotation, starting former walk-on Sherrod Harrell. Harrell, freshman Ron Coleman, and walk-on John Andrews combined for fifty-four minutes as the Wolverines lost a 61-60 heartbreaker in overtime. Abram's replacements played reasonably, but this trio's one-for-nine shooting from the floor didn't help the Wolverine effort.

In the consolation matchup against Providence, Amaker chose to replace Abram with Coleman, the freshman playing thirty-one minutes. The Wolverines lost by eleven; Coleman wasn't lost on the floor, but his one-for-eleven shooting hurt. Amaker juggled the lineups over the next two games, getting creamed by top-twenty Georgia Tech on the road and then (somehow) edging top-twenty Notre Dame at home.

Abram's injury had taken the team from one that seemed a lock for the NCAA tournament to one with an uncertain future. With Lester, Amaker had three experienced players to play three positions. Without him, the coach had to either play the green and untested Coleman at the small forward or go with a three-guard lineup, using walk-ons. Worse, without Abram, there was no backup at either guard position. Michigan came into

the season with no help at the point. Daniel Horton, the star and emotional core of the team, was the only tendered point guard. Dion Harris, the talented off guard, could play at the point for limited minutes. And Abram could slide to Harris's spot, a more natural place for him, anyway. But without Abram the bedsheet could not cover the bed. Rest for Daniel and Dion was no longer a coaching option.

**T**he season was limping with a flicker of hope when Daniel Horton went down with a knee injury in early December. At the same time, starting center Graham Brown was sidelined with a hernia. Both underwent surgery. Walk-on point guard Dani Wohl injured his elbow a few days later and was out for a month. The loss of Brown hurt the team, though the Wolverines had depth up front. But there was no making up for the loss of Horton. Now Amaker had to move Dion Harris to the point, hampering the sophomore's scoring ability. Coleman became the full-time starter at the three, and walk-ons became the starters at the off guard. John Andrews and Sherrod Harrell got major minutes. Ashtyn Bell, another walk-on, took a



Coach Tommy Amaker and chief assistant Chuck Swenson did an extraordinary job with last year's injury-hobbled team—but disappointed fans saw only their losing record.

more prominent role with the Wohl injury, though Bell also suffered a broken nose.

Somehow, the Wolverines scraped through the pre-Big Ten schedule with an 8-5 record (the competition helped), with Ron Coleman showing improvement and John Andrews becoming more confident. The record, aside from the one-point OT loss to Arizona, included a two-point loss to UCLA at Pauley Pavilion—with a rag-tag Wolverine team outplaying the Bruins. At that moment Michigan's record was, to me, a near miracle, the coaches and team holding together beyond reasonable expectation.

Prospects looked brighter when Daniel





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## Calling Dr. Amaker

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Horton recovered from his surgery in a month, weeks before he was expected to. Horton played twenty-six minutes against Iowa, gimping around the court like Walter Brennan in *To Have and Have Not*, and he led Michigan to an improbable 65-63 win on the road against the Corn Guys. The Wolverines then stomped a feeble Fairfield team at home, though they did so without forward Chris Hunter, who was now suffering from his own knee problems. Hunter more or less missed the remainder of the season, his periodic appearances being limited by his physical condition. Incredibly, forward Brent Petway, improving with his increased minutes on the court, hurt his shoulder at the same time as the Hunter injury. Petway missed two games and then returned, though he was never close to 100 percent for the rest of season. Petway underwent surgery in the spring.

Michigan beat Northwestern at home, starting Coleman (thirty-eight minutes) and seldom-used J. C. Mathis (twenty minutes) and relying on a mere twenty-nine minutes of bench time. Twenty-three of these minutes came from the hobbling return of Graham Brown, who seemed to be playing only on desire. The same lineup beat Penn State at State College, when Coleman drained four threes at the end of the game. At this point in the season the Wolverines were 12-5 (3-0 in the Big Ten) with no Lester Abram, no Chris Hunter, periodically hurt and limited Graham Brown and Brent Petway, various injuries to walk-ons, and one month without Daniel Horton. Oddly, no one in the media seemed to see anything remarkable about Amaker's (and chief assistant Chuck Swenson's) coaching job. To me, it was beyond the possible—Moses parting the waters.

U-M football coach Lloyd Carr often says something like "The expectation at Michigan is for the position and not the player." A basketball coach can't quite sell his team this way. A replacement for Daniel Horton, for example, wasn't lurking on the U-M roster, or anywhere on campus. The U-M came into the season with nine true scholarship players. One of these was Coleman, a freshman few thought was ready for the rigors of the Big Ten. Only two others, Dion Harris and center Courtney Sims, had been healthy for the entire campaign. Yet the team's strong showing during the early days of the Big Ten was passed without any general sense of wonder. From my seat, Amaker and his staff were the Dr. Frankensteins of the basketball world, piecing the odds and ends of stray protoplasm into a new body and electrifying the mass into some hard-scrabble, oozing, living corpse of a team. Yeah. They were 12-5.

It couldn't and didn't last. There are rigors, and then there is rigor mortis. Michigan got the obligatory home job at Indiana, the Hoosiers shooting twenty-eight free throws to the Wolverines'



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Dion Harris (left) is back at off guard after covering for Daniel Horton last year at point. This season may hinge on whether Courtney Sims (above) finally lives up to his potential.

twelve, on the way to a nine-point loss. Then a really good and incredibly coached Wisconsin team beat the Wolverines at home. And then Daniel Horton was charged with domestic assault—and the season's last hope died.

This was the first nonbasketball incident for any Amaker-recruited player. The charges broke Amaker's heart, because he is close to Horton and also because he has prided himself on recruiting the kind of kids who are unlikely to get into this sort of trouble. Amaker, unlike most coaches in this situation, chose against his own short-term interests and suspended Horton for the season. The Michigan star later pleaded to a misdemeanor simple assault.

With Horton, Abram, and Hunter gone, and with Petway and Brown never at full throttle, the Wolverines completely collapsed as a contending team. But they didn't give up, losing the final games of the season (Iowa, and Northwestern at the Big Ten Tournament) by just two points in each contest.

**A** couple of things stood out in the season, aside from the improbable rash of injuries. (By the end of the season, Amaker would have played Frankenstein if the dude could get the ball up court.) First was how hard the Wolverines played when there seemed some hope of righting the ship. In this the coaching staff did a notable job, with the players showing remarkable effort when there was little left in the season. No one in the program was tanking, complaining, or making excuses.

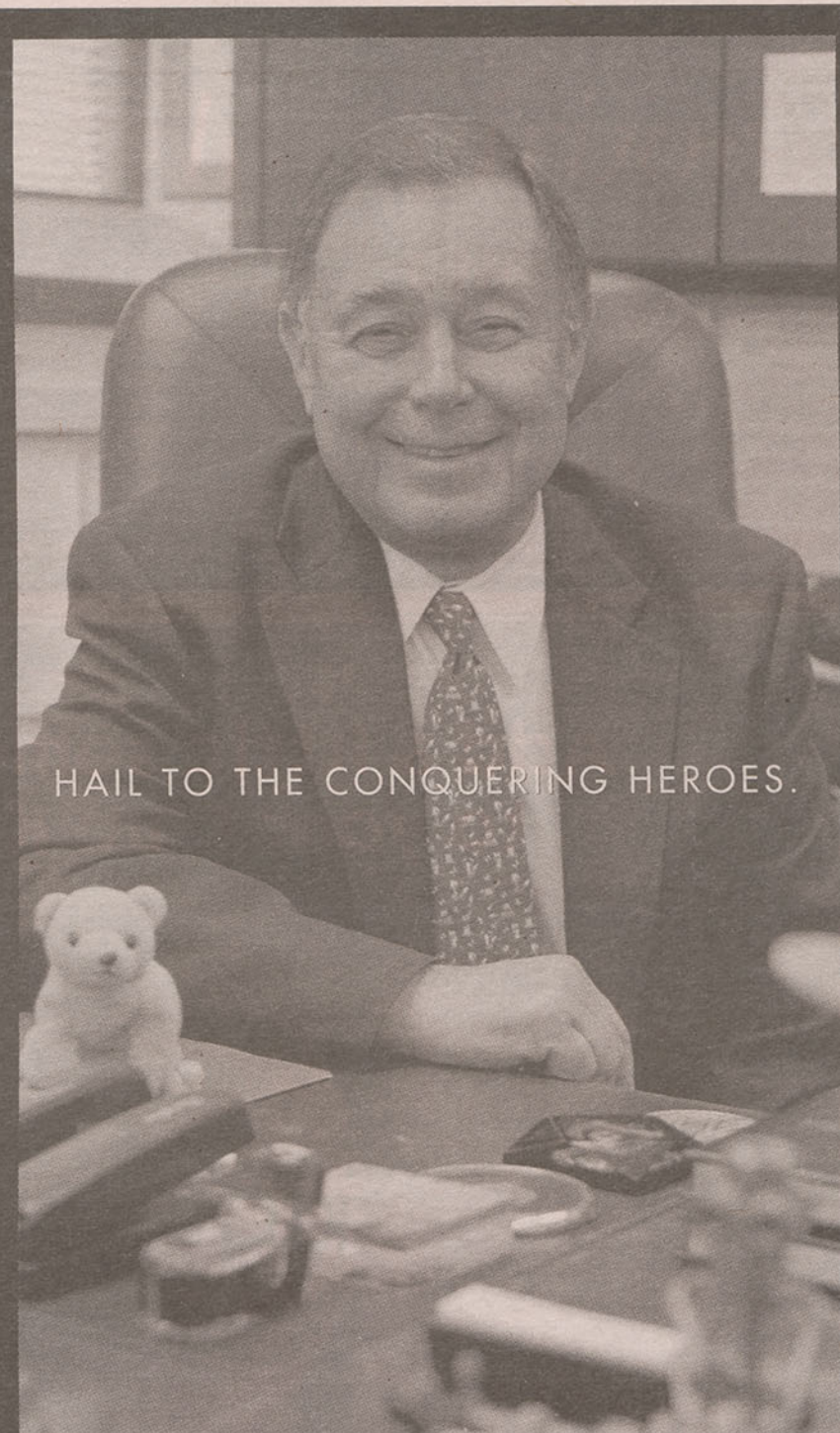
Under ordinary circumstances, a 13-18 record with the team the Wolverines brought into the season would have been disappointing and a cause for concern. But with the best two players out for most of the year, and no scholarship backups on the roster, the result said little about

Amaker's or his staff's abilities. If anything, I would argue Amaker and Swenson did as well as possible under the circumstances—much better, in fact, than reasonable expectations.

But the second landmark of the season was the criticism of Amaker. Some of this criticism represented normal fan angst ("We ain't winning; the coach must stink"). But some of it was reasonable. One former Michigan coach told me that he found Amaker's motion offense to be ill suited to the talent Michigan put on the floor. A motion offense has few set plays and requires penetration by the guards and a team with some ability to hit the outside shot. With Horton and Abram on the sidelines, Michigan didn't meet either of these requirements, and it's possible that a more structured offense, with set plays, might have helped Dion and Ron Coleman get better looks at the basket.

I heard this criticism from a number of basketball fans who know their stuff. Well, maybe they were right. But my guess is that set plays wouldn't have worked for this team, either. The post play just wasn't good enough. And the perimeter players either could not play at the requisite level or were just not ready yet.

Whatever the reason, last year's losing record left a bad taste in the mouths of many fans. Some think Amaker is going nowhere with the Michigan program. Others think that unless your name is Duke or North Carolina (and even then), you have to be a little bit shady when playing the recruiting game. The argument goes (a) everybody cheats in college basketball; (b) Michigan is no longer any kind of a primo destination for high school basketball players; (c) Midwest teams like MSU, Illinois, Indiana, and (especially) Ohio State are well ahead of Michigan in high-level player interest; and, ergo, (d) Amaker's insistence on nothing but the rules leaves Michigan recruiting at a mid-



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**B**ut what about the coming year? Well, the good news is that everyone on the roster is now healthy and available, and that, with the exception of graduated team leader J. C. Mathis, Michigan is intact. The backcourt tandem of Dion Harris (junior) and Daniel Horton (senior) returns, and Horton has played at his highest level in four years this summer. Right now, Horton looks almost like an NBA player. The struggle in the backcourt will be for Dion and Daniel to find the right mix of roles. Amaker points out that Dion can be too unselfish and tends to defer to others. He is an ultimate team player, and that's an obvious plus, but the coach believes he needs to be more assertive. Daniel, on the other hand, must tone some of his scoring skills slightly and keep Dion involved in the offense. This is no easy balance to reach, even for the most accomplished players.

At the point, freshman Jerret Smith (from Romulus) will back up Horton. Smith has a good handle, and he can pass the ball. He isn't a consistent outside shooter, but he doesn't have to be, because he can run an offense and has the ability to get the ball to the hole. Smith's issues will be on defense, where he seemed pretty much clueless in the summer games I witnessed. Still, Amaker and Swenson should be able to teach Smith enough defense to get him on the floor this year—if only to give Horton a rest. It appears that Smith will have to run the show in 2006, so a prime chore of this season will be getting him ready for next year.

Lester Abram returns with an extra year of eligibility (he has junior status), and he progressed over the summer. Abram isn't quite where he was in the spring of 2004, but he is close. Lester can back up Harris at the two, and Michigan now has an experienced Ron Coleman to back up at the three. Coleman played well on the Big Ten European touring team this summer, averaging thirteen points and 3.5 rebounds a game, the second-highest scorer on the team. Coleman will be pushed by Jevohn Shepherd, a six-foot-five two/three from Toronto (who averaged twenty-eight points per game in 2004-2005), probably the best high school player in Canada last year. Shepherd competed in international ball this summer, and in his first scrimmage in Ann Arbor he showed that he could play defense, run, and jump, and that he has reasonable skills. He sees the floor and can take it to the rim. Shepherd might press for playing time this year, particularly if his defense is as solid as it seemed in the early scrimmage.

Four experienced big men return for Michigan. Graham Brown, now a senior, has lost weight and gained muscle, and is in the best shape of his life. Right now, he might be the U-M's most efficient inside offensive presence, though he has trouble finishing at times. Junior Brent Petway remains the premier athlete in the Big Ten; the question is whether he can translate his athletic skills to the basketball court. Last year Petway made strides: indeed, once he was hurt he seemed to play *better* basketball, at least at times, having to corral his instinct for the spectacular. However,

Petway is academically ineligible for the fall semester and will not play until late December.

Senior Chris Hunter will see a lot of minutes this year if he can stay healthy. Hunter can score, averaging 9.3 points in only nineteen minutes per game last year, but he turned the ball over fifty-one times in the year, way too often for twenty-three games. By comparison, Graham Brown had twenty-nine turnovers in 103 more minutes. Ron Coleman had forty-three turnovers in twice the minutes. Hunter is versatile and is a major asset, but he has to be more careful with the ball.

Amaker has also added stringy six-foot-eight forward Kendric Price from Massachusetts. Price is strong and doesn't shy away from hard defense or contact. He is a good rebounder, and he has a nice jump shot to twelve or thirteen feet. As a high school senior Price averaged twenty-four points, fourteen rebounds, six assists, and six blocks per game. But Price is likely a year away from making any real impact. This is his time to learn.

The enigma is junior center Courtney Sims. Sims averaged 7.7 points and 4.7 rebounds a game in his first year, and he showed flashes of brilliance. But he went in retrograde as a sophomore, playing thirty fewer minutes over the year, despite the injuries to Brown, Hunter, and Petway. Sims had more turnovers and fewer blocks last year than as a freshman, and while his scoring increased to 9.8 per game (and rebounds to 5.2 per game), his only apparent gain was in free throw shooting. *Everyone* thinks Courtney Sims has a huge upside. But until his footwork in the post improves, this potential may be latent. How well Michigan plays this year may depend on where Sims can take his game.

Senior Amadou Ba also returns at center, as does walk-on freshman Phillip DeVries (Utica Eisenhower). Neither of these six-foot-ten players is expected to see very much playing time.

**M**ichigan has experience and depth. It has shooters, ball handlers, passers, and rebounders. The team can block shots, and it has size and strength. And Amaker's coaching role is changing for 2005-2006. Last year his job description was "mad scientist," creating life out of ill-fitting puzzle pieces that were continually morphing and disappearing. This year, with thirteen scholarship players and depth at every position, Tommy must assemble his puzzle out of "too many" pieces and still keep the whole happy.

In October, I asked the coach about this challenge. He hesitated, thinking. Finally he said, "I don't know. I have never had this problem in the past. But I think this will be a good problem." Tommy is shedding one skin for another. This season, Dr. Frankenstein must become Dr. Freud.

The Wolverines won't be the best team in the Big Ten this year. MSU and Illinois will be more talented. So might OSU and Indiana. But this is an NCAA team, absent the train wrecks of last year. I promise. And if Courtney Sims begins to push against his potential, who knows? ■

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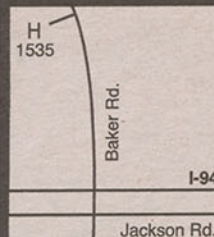
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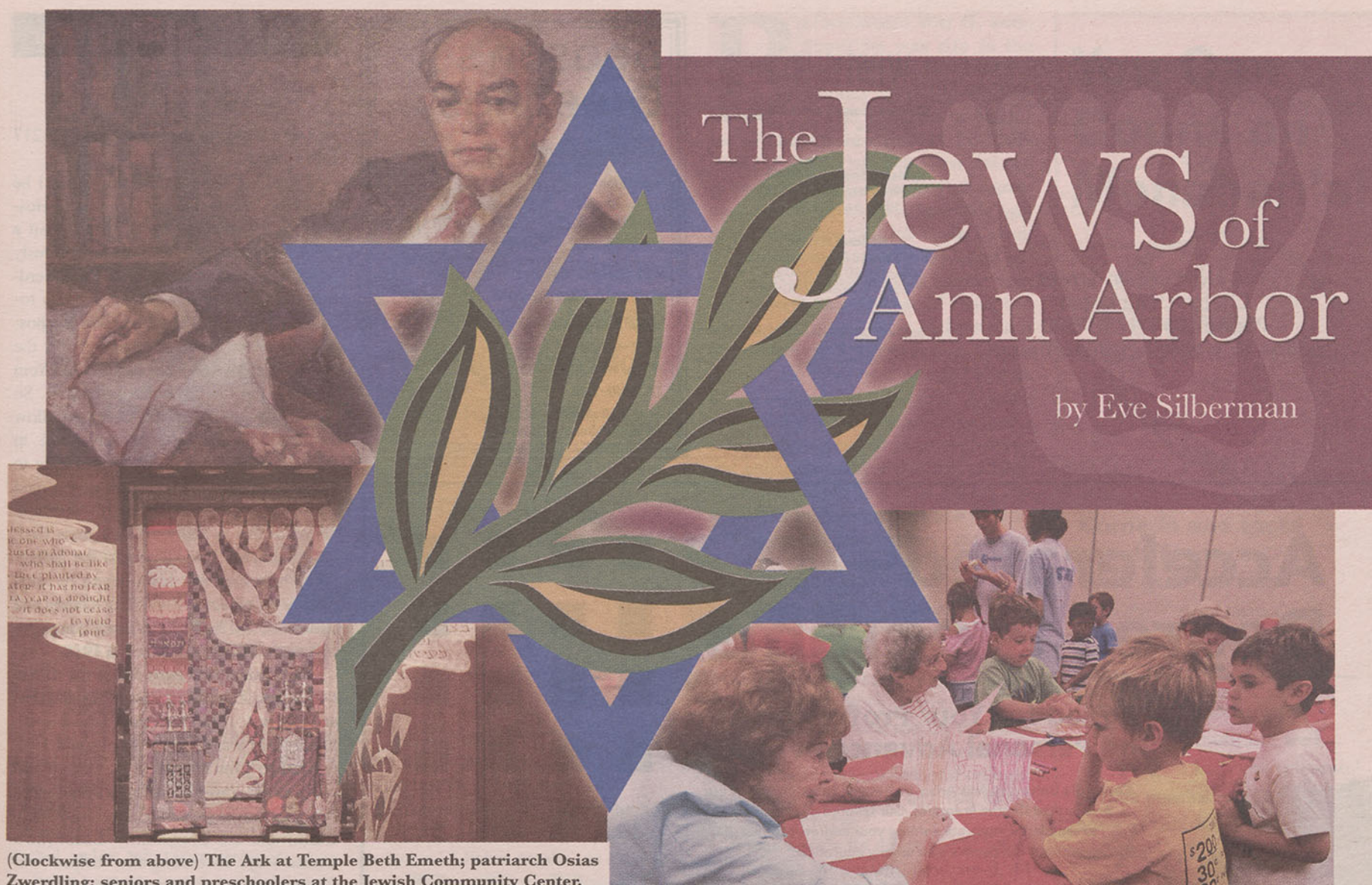
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# The Jews of Ann Arbor

by Eve Silberman

(Clockwise from above) The Ark at Temple Beth Emeth; patriarch Osias Zwerdling; seniors and preschoolers at the Jewish Community Center.

**Old-timers still remember a past of discrimination and quotas. But after World War II, the end of academic anti-Semitism helped create one of the few growing Jewish communities in the Midwest.**

**“W**hen I grew up here, anti-Semitism was something you knew,” says Eunice Faber, seventy-eight. “Our kids wonder why we didn’t scream about it. They didn’t understand we didn’t have any choice.”

Faber remembers how in the late 1930s her cousin, Manuel Levin, became the first Jew selected for a residency in surgery at U-M Hospital. It became family lore how the head of the department said to him, “Well, you’re different—you’re from Ann Arbor.” The message was that her cousin wouldn’t have been welcome if he’d been a New York Jew.

Back when Faber was growing up, there were so few Jews in Ann Arbor that practically all of them knew each other. The only congregation in town was the Conservative synagogue Beth Israel, which passed through several locations before settling in its present home on Washtenaw. Today, Jeff Levin of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County says proudly, Ann Arbor is one of the very few growing Jewish communities in the Midwest. Besides Beth Israel, there’s a Reform temple, Beth Emeth; an Orthodox congregation; the Hasidic Chabad House; the secular Jewish

Cultural Society; the Reconstructionists, a liberal faction that emphasizes both culture and religion; and 3,000-member U-M Hillel, the Jewish student organization. The Jewish Community Center, a onetime elementary school, rocks with activity, housing everything from a Hebrew school to events for seniors.

Driving all this activity are the city’s estimated 8,000 Jewish residents (plus about 6,000 students). Jews make up less than 2 percent of the national population but about 12 percent of Ann Arbor’s. It’s quite a change from Faber’s youth—and for good reason. Ann Arbor’s Jewish population skyrocketed after World War II, when the barriers that had kept Jews out of academia and the professions were finally lifted.

**I**n 1980 the residents of an Ann Arbor fraternity house made a surprising discovery. They turned over a stone they had used as a doormat—and discovered that it was a tombstone. The date was 1858, and it bore the name, engraved in Hebrew, of Reba Weil.

The stone passed first to the B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation and then to Beth Israel, where Helen Aminoff, then the synagogue’s administrator, did some detective

work. She wasn’t able to discover how the stone ended up at the fraternity—probably a prank of some kind, she guesses. But she learned that there had been a Jewish cemetery west of Fletcher Street, where the U-M’s Rackham Building now stands. The bodies had been exhumed and reinterred at Forest Hill sometime in 1900; there, Aminoff found several Weil family tombstones, as well as others with Hebrew inscriptions.

The fraternity’s chance discovery opened the door to recovering the lost history of Ann Arbor’s first Jewish residents. Aminoff contacted the Weil descendants, now living in Chicago, and learned that Reba was part of a large family who ran a successful tannery near Huron and First streets. Solomon, a German immigrant and a peddler of dry goods, came to Ann Arbor in 1845.

The Weil family was very likely the target of an ad in the *Michigan Argus* newspaper in 1852, in which tailor William O’Hara condemned the “slop work” of competitors. Though O’Hara named no names, the ad was headlined “Opposition to Jews!”

Other Ann Arborites, however, rejected O’Hara’s bigotry. In 1860 Weil’s brother Jacob was elected alderman from the Sec-

ond Ward. But in later years Weil family members began moving to Chicago. The last was gone by 1883.

The start of the modern Jewish community in Ann Arbor dates to the turn of the last century. One of the earliest arrivals, in 1895, was William Lansky, who started a junkyard that survived until the late 1980s (when its site was cleaned up and refurbished to create the NEW Center on North Main). Another was Osias Zwerdling, who, during his long life (he died in 1977 at age ninety-eight), was patriarch of the local Jewish community.

A Russian immigrant, as was Lansky, Zwerdling arrived in Ann Arbor in 1902 to work as a tailor at Mack’s, the city’s largest department store. In an oral history housed in the archives of the Jewish Community Center, Zwerdling recalls the reaction when he informed owner Walter Mack that Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, was approaching. “So he started laughing—he’s six foot six—and you could hear him all over the building: ‘Why, who ever heard of New Year’s at this time of the year?’ So I made plain that our New Year’s is different from their New Year’s.” Zwerdling went on to open his own successful business as a furrier—preservationists have restored his Art Deco





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## The Jews of Ann Arbor

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Zwerdling also recalled how in 1911 he received a phone call from University Hospital asking him whether he could visit a rabbi from Jerusalem who'd been seriously injured in an automobile accident. Zwerdling did, and the men spoke Yiddish together. The rabbi wanted to leave the hospital to attend services in Detroit for the High Holy Days (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), but his physician forbade it. So Zwerdling persuaded the doctor to allow the rabbi to come to his house—where, to his own surprise, Zwerdling was able to gather a minyan (the quorum of ten men traditionally required for Jewish worship). "Friends, this is really a finger from God. It's a miracle," Zwerdling told the gathering. From then on, Jews began to meet weekly for prayer at Zwerdling's home and various rented halls. Beth Israel congregation was officially organized in 1916.

As president of Beth Israel for thirty-two years, Zwerdling cast a big shadow, and not just within the small Jewish community. He was the Jew whom non-Jews invited to join boards of corporate and civic organizations, such as Ann Arbor Federal Savings and Loan (now TCF Bank) and the Community Chest (now United Way). Zwerdling also "helped Jewish students when they needed help," recalls U-M sociology professor emeritus Ron Freedman. "He helped me find housing before the war, and also after the war, when housing was very tight."

By all indications, Zwerdling enjoyed his prestige and power. "Mr. Zwerdling dictated what the Jews of Ann Arbor would do," recalls Eunice Faber, who was just two years old when her family moved

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GRIFIN LINDSAY

"When I grew up here, anti-Semitism was something you knew," says Eunice Faber, seventy-eight. "Our kids wonder why we didn't scream about it. They didn't understand we didn't have any choice."



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Though O'Hara named no names, the ad was headlined "Opposition to Jews!"

here in 1928. But her own father, William Mintz, didn't come under Zwerdling's rule. An atheist, he refused to attend Jewish services. Faber recalls that Zwerdling "resented my father because he didn't go to shul, and he didn't keep kosher."

Faber's parents owned a clothing store on State Street and were friendly with the handful of other Jewish merchants in town, especially their cousins, the Levins, whose grocery store on Washington Street was the only place in town that sold Jewish challah bread. In those days, the Jews stuck together socially. Ceil Pear, now ninety-three, lived in Ypsilanti, where for fifty years she and her husband ran a men's clothing store. Her social life, though, centered on her Jewish friends in Ann Arbor, who were all local merchants or businesspeople. She was a charter member of the Ann Arbor Hadassah women's group, and her son Ed's bar mitzvah ceremony in 1954 was conducted by Julius Weinberg, Beth Israel's first full-time rabbi.

Osias Zwerdling had money, but most of the Jewish businesspeople were struggling. Faber's parents were from Lithuania, part of the wave of some 2 million Eastern European Jews who emigrated between 1880 and 1924, fleeing anti-Semitism and poverty for life in the New World. "We were Depression kids," says Eunice Faber. The family didn't have a car, and at one point four people shared two rooms in a house on Packard. But as in many other Jewish immigrant families, her parents stressed education as a tool of upward mobility—something that goes a long way toward explaining the American Jewish success story. Faber's father, a passionate reader, managed to get his daughter admitted to the University School, despite the family's lack of a U-M connection. She held her own with the children of the town's elite, although she recalls feeling "different" from her classmates because

her mother worked and her family didn't have a Christmas tree. It was always expected that she'd attend the U-M.

"I remember the attitude in the home was 'Because you are Jewish, you have to do better,'" Faber recalls. At the time, many universities sought to limit the number of Jewish students. Says Faber, "We were acutely aware of the quotas."

So was Ron Freedman, an undergraduate at the U-M from 1934 to 1938. Fourth in his class at a large Illinois high school, Freedman earned straight As at Michigan while acting as student director at Hillel, then located on East University. He recalls, "I became aware fairly early on that there were very few Jewish professors . . . something like nine or ten people on the University of Michigan faculty who were Jews. There was also a lot of anti-Semitism implicit; for example, the medical school and the dental school both had geographical quotas, so that you don't get too many people from New Jersey and New York, because those were mainly Jews coming here."

Retired survey researcher Bob Kahn attended the U-M at about the same time as Freedman. Coming from a nonreligious, assimilated Jewish family, Kahn reluctantly pledged one of the Jewish fraternities (a fellow pledge was journalist Mike Wallace) but dropped out after a year. He also successfully ran as a student member of the U-M Board in Control of Student Publications on what he calls a "platform of student representation which would now be called 'equal opportunity.'" Specifically, Kahn was protesting the reluctance of the board to appoint Jews as editors. Despite Kahn's efforts, the role of Jews at the *Michigan Daily* remained limited for many years. Eunice Faber, who worked on the *Daily* in the 1940s, remembers, "You knew a Jew could be editorial director, but you couldn't be managing editor."

Before World War II, anti-Semitism was rife in the United States. In the 1930s, millions listened to the anti-Jewish diatribes of Michigan's Father Charles Coughlin, the "radio priest" of Royal Oak. Bob Kahn was one of the best students in the English department, but after graduation he couldn't get a permanent teaching job in the Detroit public schools, despite "extravagant letters" from his professors. "I had the very, very unpleasant experience of seeing one after another of my fellow students called out for interviews with principals," he recalls. "I sat there twirling my Phi Beta Kappa key and feeling foolish." Rejected as a teacher, Kahn eventually secured a federal government job as an interviewer; that ultimately led to a position, in 1948, at the then brand-new U-M Survey Research Center. He went back to school for a Ph.D. in social psychology, and ended up as a world-renowned scholar and a director of the center.

"My impression is that before World War II there was significant anti-Semitism at the university," says Ron Freedman. "Afterwards, I found there was a complete change, and I didn't detect any anti-Semitism. I came back and got my Ph.D. at Chicago, and my first two job offers were at Christian denominational colleges. That was a pretty good sign that things were quite different."

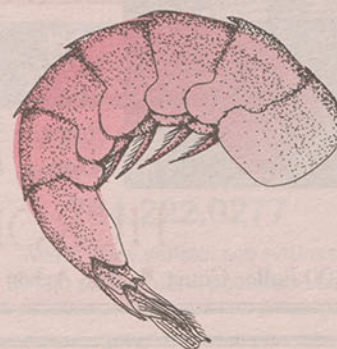
It took a while for the change to percolate through the system, however. U-M physician Gerald Abrams recalls that when he enrolled in medical school at Michigan in 1951, the faculty was still "very white and very male and very gentle." (He notes with satisfaction that today the dean of the U-M Medical School, Allen Lichter, is Jewish.)

When Sidney Fine was hired to teach history at the U-M in 1948, he was the first Jew in his department. Former Ann Arbor mayor Bob Harris, recently deceased, was just the second Jew on the law faculty when he arrived in 1959. "It was very clear that being Jewish was an unusual thing," Harris recalled in an interview before his death earlier this year—while stressing that he was treated well. Perhaps the first prominent Jewish administrator at the U-M was dean William Haber of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, who took the job in 1963 and held it for five years.

Residential College prof Carl Cohen joined the U-M faculty fifty years ago. Cohen, who's recently become best known for his opposition to affirmative action, recalls that in the 1950s Jews made up a tiny proportion of the total university population. "In the faculty directory in 1958, I recall that I was the only Cohen," he writes in an e-mail. Recently he went through the current directory to count the Cohens (including variations like Cohn). He discovered that "there are twenty-nine of us!"

Other barriers were also falling. In the mid-1970s, attorney Jack Dobson and a few others pushed to end the tacit policy that had blackballed Jews from the Barton Hills Country Club. The resistance, Dobson says, came from "a group of older members from different generations where

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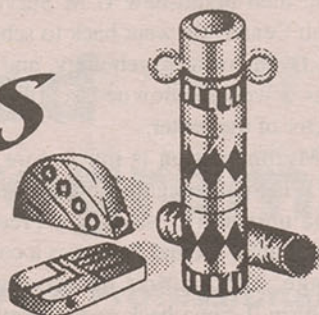
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## The Jews of Ann Arbor

*continued*

The Unitarians seemed like natural partners  
for a liberal Reform congregation—  
in fact, so many Ann Arbor Jews became  
Unitarians that someone nicknamed them  
“Jewnitarians.” But problems arose in 1970  
when black activist Charles Thomas began  
staging protests at various churches.

the old prejudice carried on and on.” Dobson challenged them by nominating Michael Blumenthal, then CEO of Bendix (and later secretary of the treasury in the Carter administration), for membership. The nomination ended up going through “smoothly,” Dobson recalls, and the club currently has several Jewish members. (An interesting footnote: to protest the anti-Semitism of some club members, former U-M regent Eugene Power, who wasn’t Jewish, tendered his resignation. “He didn’t need to do that,” Dobson says. Power never came back to the club.)

But these efforts were accompanied by considerable controversy. “The community began to get upset,” recalls Ron Tikofsky, who left the U-M many years ago and is now at Columbia. “The argument was that this was going to be divisive, it would divide the community. . . . A lot of people we thought were friends broke the friendship over the issue.” Feelings ran especially high because Beth Israel had launched a big fund-raising drive to pay for an expansion. Some suggested that the Reform movement was just a way to bail out of Beth Israel and avoid paying for the building project.

**A**s the city’s Jewish population grew, Beth Israel, for the first time, had some competition. By the mid-1960s the synagogue was sharing space with Hillel. But many in its fold chafed under the constraints of its Conservative Judaism, in which services are conducted mostly in Hebrew and dietary laws are observed.

Much of the initiative for the change came from the growing number of Jewish academics. One Sunday in February 1966, three couples met at the home of U-M speech pathology professor Ron Tikofsky and his wife, Rita, to discuss the possibility of starting a Reform temple. In Reform Judaism, worship is mostly in English, and the dietary laws are relaxed. Although Tikofsky was treasurer of Beth Israel, he identified primarily as a Reform Jew and had unsuccessfully tried to convince Beth Israel to hold some Reform services. That August, the fledgling congregation—which had decided to call itself Beth Emeth (House of Truth)—held its first formal meeting at the First Congregational Church on State Street. Although the organizers had worried about a small turnout, about sixty families showed up. A Reform rabbi from Detroit conducted services; the new group purchased prayer books and a Torah.

As it happened, many families did leave Beth Israel for the new temple—causing Beth Israel to put off its expansion plans. But Tikofsky emphasizes that the temple attracted many less observant Jews who would never have joined the Conservative synagogue. (Today, Beth Israel has 465 families, Beth Emeth 700.)

Beth Emeth’s first regular home was the Unitarian church—an arrangement that ended badly. The Unitarians seemed like natural partners for a liberal Reform congregation—in fact, so many Ann Arbor Jews became Unitarians that someone nicknamed them “Jewnitarians.” But problems arose in 1970 when black activist Charles Thomas began staging protests at various churches. He would take over the pulpit and exhort listeners to contribute to his Black Economic Development League—which many local churches did. But he encountered an obstacle when he called Temple Beth Emeth’s rabbi, Bruce Warshal, and said he would be reading the Black Manifesto at the evening’s services. Warshal said that there was already a speaker for the coming Sabbath, but invited Thomas to speak the next week. When Thomas refused to wait, Warshal threatened him with a legal injunction. Thomas showed up anyway, and stood defiantly at the pulpit. Holding the injunction in his hand, Warshal looked him “straight in the eye” (as he afterwards described it) and



said, "Charlie, if you don't remove your posterior now, it's a year in jail." Thomas departed—but the Unitarians were so unhappy with the tough response that the Jews sought another home.

Next, Beth Emeth rented space from St. Clare's Episcopal Church, on Packard. The arrangement was seen as temporary until one day in 1974 when Doug Evett, the rector of St. Clare's, said suddenly to Warshal, "Why don't you stay?" The boards of both the temple and the church began meeting together, and by the end of 1974 they had formed a joint entity called Genesis. The sanctuary is arranged so that either Jewish or Christian symbols can be displayed, depending on which service is in progress.

Much of the ill feeling over the formation of Beth Emeth was erased in the wake of the 1967 Arab-Israeli "Six Day" War. "That was a seminal event that brought everyone together," says Tikofsky. Others recall that it marked an awakening in Jewish Ann Arbor. "During the Six Day War, a lot of people we didn't know were Jewish were coming out of the woodwork," says Helen Aminoff. Longtime resident Ceil Pear recalls receiving a donation from a man who'd never been involved in Jewish institutions before. When she asked why he'd come forward then, he replied, "My people need me."

It's a Thursday morning at the Jewish Community Center on Ann Arbor's south side, and nursery school kids are streaming out of their classroom. The center has been here in the former Clinton Elementary School since 1985, and director Leslie Bash estimates that the number of member families has doubled in the past fifteen years, to 600. With the founding of the JCC, "the Jewish population got sudden visibility above and beyond the temple and synagogue," says former director Nancy Margolis. She believes the JCC has given unaffiliated Jews a reason to get involved in the local community. The Hebrew Day School is here, as is Jewish Family Services, which provides social services for Jews and non-Jews, including Russian Jewish immigrants and Hurricane Katrina evacuees. This year the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County raised \$1.5 million in local donations; the money goes to agencies here and overseas.

It's a long way from the small world of Osias Zwerdling. "This is a great place to be Jewish," says rabbi Bob Levy of Beth Emeth. "We have enough Jewish resources, and they get better and better."

Like other Jewish old-timers, Eunice Faber is delighted that the present-day Jewish community is so vital—and that the era of discrimination is over. For Faber, the event that confirmed the change was Harold Shapiro's appointment as the U-M's president in 1980. There's still awe in her voice when she remembers how thrilled she was at the news. "It was wonderful," she says. "Today the only thing that matters is merit. . . . That I lived to see the change!"

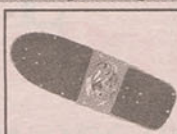
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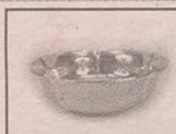
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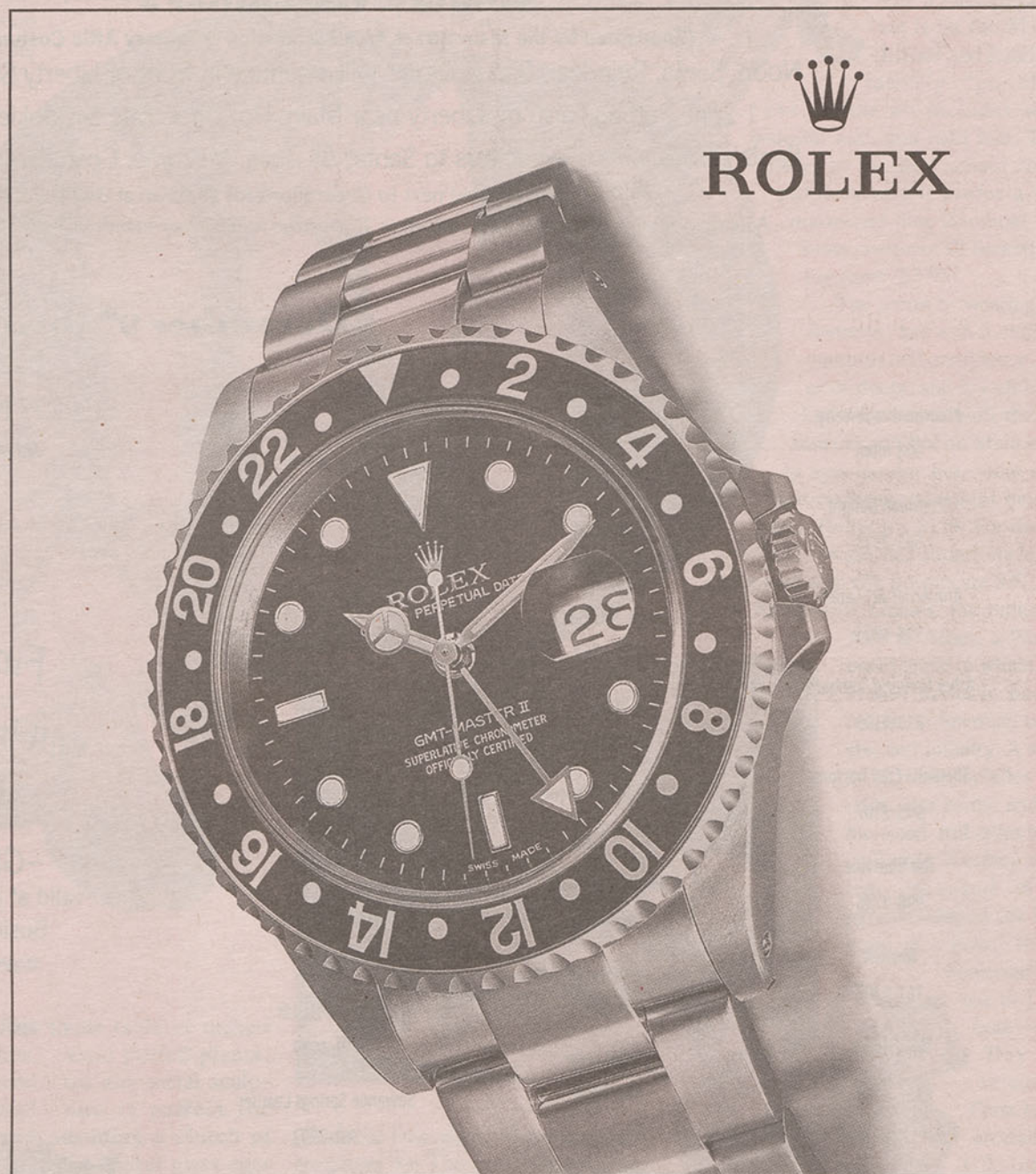


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# CREATIVE SHOPPING

*Our guide to out-of-the-ordinary gifts.*

by Laura McReynolds with Tony McReynolds

I don't know if I believe in demonic possession, but I do know that one holiday season I was possessed by Martha Stewart. It started when I impulsively bought a set of antique glass bottles, and—looking for something to do with them—began fermenting my own fruit cordials. Giddy with my newfound domestic creativity, I took up decoupage and candle making—a hollowed-out miniature gourd, I was assured, makes a witty votive! Thanksgiving found me weighing the comparative advantages of grapevine and eucalyptus for decorative wreaths.

By the middle of December I was in a frenzy, making my own paper greeting cards from dried herbs and poinsettia petals and wrapping the presents I'd hurriedly bought (when I wasn't otherwise occupied with a glue gun) in imported craft paper and organic, vegetable-dyed raffia. At one point, I seriously considered sewing holiday-themed catnip sachets for my cat.

Intervention arrived in the form of a particularly obnoxious flu. I spent the week before Christmas lying on the couch and regarding my (hand-cut, Victorian-themed) tree through a haze of fever and delirium. By the time the actual holiday rolled around, I was grateful simply to be able to sit up and take nourishment. Martha had been exorcised—or possibly incarcerated.

These days I don't have time to be Martha, even if I wanted to. My house is decorated with kindergarten crafts, and I wrap my gifts in whatever comes to hand, hoping only that I remember which paper I've designated as "Santa's." My holidays may not look as picture perfect, but I'm able to turn my attention to finding thoughtful gifts, not the mad pursuit of the next Good Thing. As I found when I hit the stores this year, there's a lot of cool stuff out there sure to make someone smile—even it comes wrapped in a wrinkled edition of the Sunday funnies.

Any other Martha-wannabes out there might benefit from a statue of Ganesh, the elephant-headed Hindu god of domestic harmony and success. It's \$27 at Crazy Wisdom downtown. And for those for whom plain calligraphy is too commonplace, consider the Illuminated Lettering Kit (\$25), including materials, instructions, and projects. Crazy Wisdom also carries a broad selection of \$12 magnetic poetry kits, including the Fridge Door Fortune-Teller ("The magnetic mystic will reveal all!") and Pickup Lines ("Is there an airport nearby or is

that my heart taking off?"). Results not guaranteed.

Charm the domestic diva in your life with one of the artful bronze birds' nests (\$28) at Three Chairs. An unexpected accent piece on a



side table or tucked amid potted plants, the airy metal sculpture is perfect for holding a clutch of opalescent glass eggs (\$5 each), or for pairing with a rustic-looking tin bird (\$13).

Give the gift of introspection with one of northern Michigan artist Ted Gilmer's woodsy handmade leather journals bound with scrap wood and recycled paper (\$29-\$50). They come in purple, camel, and green at the Ann Arbor Art Center and look very satisfying both to write in and to hold. The Art Center also sells beautifully carved solid wood bottle stoppers, a nice stocking stuffer at \$15.

Grateful recipients won't need a single lesson in order



to play one of the delightful musical instruments from around the world at Ten Thousand Villages. Choose from Ecuadoran gourd maracas with wooden handles (\$20), ten-note Peruvian pan-flutes (\$10), Indonesian bamboo xylophones (\$48), and my favorite, a traditional Vietnamese tabletop gong that hangs inside its own cast iron frame and has a sonorous ceremonial ring. It's \$46.

With a three-piece bathroom set from the M-Den, your friends and family can figuratively "go blue." For \$44.95, the set includes seat cover, pedestal mat, and bath mat. Those who prefer to fly their school colors more publicly might prefer a miniature maize-and-blue Zamboni (\$15) or a Santa ornament all decked out for the big game (\$3.95).

The secret to wearing a gigantic feathered hat with a chiffon train is supreme self-confidence. One flicker of doubt, and it's all over. If you know someone with the right attitude, Hoi Polloi on Main offers a truly spectacular hat—like something Barbra Streisand might have worn in *Hello, Dolly!* It's \$119. For the less flamboyant, sweet headband-style earmuffs trimmed with silk flowers are \$39.

At Phoenix Games, the hottest seller is Axis & Allies, a World War II board game in which players recreate historic battles with miniature Sherman tanks, panzers, and infantry. A starter pack is \$25 and includes battlefield units, stat cards, and four double-sided, full-color battle mats.

Oprah Winfrey calls Forte tea, packaged in its own pyramid-shaped silk infuser, "as good as it gets." If you know someone who loves tea or Oprah—or both—Bellanina

Day Spa sells selections of Forte teas starting around \$20. The silk infusers are handmade, and the company maintains they're the world's finest method to brew a cup of tea.



(Clockwise from above) Vietnamese table gong from Ten Thousand Villages; a representative of the Chelsea Teddy Bear Company; electric candles at Lady of the Lamp; statue of Ganesh at Crazy Wisdom.



Certainly they're the most elegant.

My five-year-old likes tea, but not as much as he loves things that are creepy, slimy, slithery, crawly, and, in a word, gross. For \$15, Mudpuddles sells a delightfully disgusting book called *Oh, Yuck!*—an "ants to zits" compendium that covers such noxious topics as why vomit smells, where dandruff comes from, and why maggots adore rotting meat. Having read some of it, I feel compelled to tell you



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## CREATIVE SHOPPING

continued

that slime eels are wreathed in mucus and eat fellow fish from the inside out. Sorry. The knowledge was just too icky to bear alone.

**B**ack in the Year of Martha, I lit my home by candlelight—but that was B.C. (Before Child). These days I like the safety and the no-drip glow of electric candles. Watercolor Candles turn on automatically when you remove them from their discreet charging tray; they give off your choice of a warm, steady glow or



(Above) Fishtail selenite crystal at Unearthed Rock & Glass.  
(Left) Jamaican Jerk Pit's Ann Arbor-made Jamaican Dread jerk sauce heats up winter—and every other season.



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Those who like only the occasional glass of wine with dinner risk having the rest of the bottle go bad. They could use a can of Cork Pops wine preserver (\$12) from Everyday Wines. The nozzle forces the oxygen out of the unfinished wine and replaces it with nitrogen so you can save the bottle for months. (It works for olive oils and infused vinegars, too.)

Even kids who are normally unenthusiastic about getting clothes for Christmas would like the exuberant, South African-made fashions at Keedo, including a bright orange, daisy-patterned dress for girls (\$45) and a \$35 graffiti-print long-sleeved tee for boys. Keedo also sells moon- or fish-patterned sleeping bags (\$80) that fold into their own clever carrying cases with handle. They'll be all the rage at next year's sleepovers.

A rock might sound like more of a punishment than a present, but a hunk of fish-tail selenite from Unearthed Rock & Glass Studio on Liberty is actually a pretty spectacular gift. A sparkling crystal formation, it's named for its angular, icelike blades that grow in the shape of a V, like a fish tail. A generous specimen is \$119. While you're there, don't forget to pet Bear, the magnificent keeshond who sleepily guards the door.

A veritable zoo of fantastic beaded creatures on wire can be found at John Leidy, where brightly colored seals, turtles, crabs, spiders, fish, snakes, penguins, and monkeys cavort peaceably among the china and glassware. They're \$15-\$30. John Leidy also has one of the best selections of children's plate-and-mug sets in

town, from traditional designs like Beatrix Potter to more contemporary versions featuring the brightly colored illustrations of children's author Eric Carle.

Leg warmers are back! Those of you old enough to remember *Fame* and *Flashdance* can wax nostalgic over their retro look, now back in style at American Apparel on Liberty. They range in color from raspberry to fluorescent green, and cost \$14. The other big look here is a thermal T-shirt with a sexy scooped boat neck that can be worn seductively off the shoulder; it's \$26. Oddly, American Apparel also sells a \$14 thermal T-shirt for dogs. No sexy scooped neck on this one.

If you have athlete friends, or friends who just want to look like athletes, Bivouac can dress them in high style. Soft, drapery jersey looks from designer names like Saint Grace, Surplus Vintage, and Lululemon run \$79 to \$140, and are every bit as at home in an active yoga practice as they are on the street. Bivouac also sells hard-core outdoors stuff good for stockings, including a \$4.25 snake bite kit ("complete with easy-to-use scalpel!"), and a DIY emergency dental kit for \$11 with temporary filling—novocaine not included.

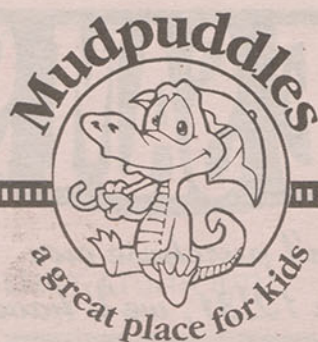
Can't afford a trip to Jamaica for that special someone? Give a taste of the island instead. Jamaican Dread jerk sauce is bottled right here in Ann Arbor by the owners of the Jamaican Jerk Pit on Thayer. It's loaded with what Jamaicans call "country peppers"—habaneros—that are estimated to be 1,000 times hotter than jalapeños. Whooooo, mon! It's \$6, or two bottles for \$10.

Budding paleontologists will go Jurassic over the U-M Exhibit Museum's Dig a

continued on p. 48

PHOTOS: J. ADRIAN WYLIE





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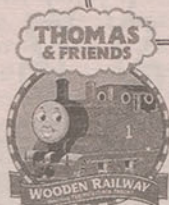
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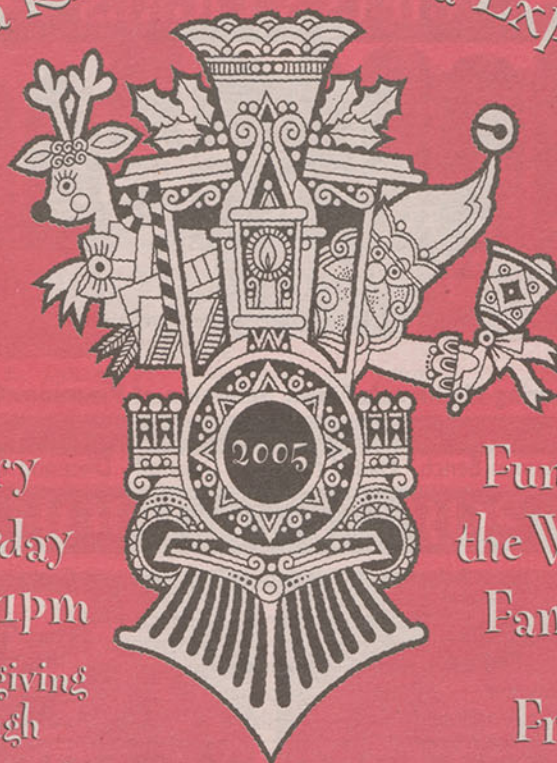


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# CREATIVE SHOPPING

continued

## MILLIE'S CHRISTMAS EVE

A quarter-century tradition

In 1975 Millie Empedocles' husband, Philip, died. The couple had a six-year-old son, Stephen, and a two-year-old daughter, Christina. For several years afterward, Millie fled Ann Arbor at Christmas, taking her kids to Florida to see her parents.

But she really didn't want to be out of town at the holidays. "It was too depressing to go away," she says. "I wanted to do something for just me and the kids." So in 1980, instead of traveling, Millie invited her Burns Park neighbors and their kids over on Christmas Eve. She cooked dinner and planned an early evening so that everyone could go home and wrap presents. That first party went so well that over the past twenty-five years it has become a beloved holiday tradition.

"Friends are the family you choose for yourself," says Empedocles' former neighbor Kathleen Singer. "Millie's Christmas Eve is a wonderful gift she has given to all of us—it is a big jolly family gathering." Last year Millie and her second husband, Doug Turner, hosted thirty-eight people around a rented table that snaked its way through three rooms (the regular furniture was banished to the front porch for the occasion).

The guests now encompass three generations. The party date changes to accommodate Millie's kids' schedules, but no one complains. Stephen and Christina will call from their homes in California, Millie says, to ask, "So, when is Christmas Eve this year?"

Millie has let the event evolve. The dinner is now a potluck, and though she started out setting the table with crystal and china, she has since decided that "fancy paper looks prettier" and that wine tastes fine in plastic cups. Chocolate mousse in elegant goblets has given way to ice cream sundaes in paper bowls.

What never changes is the party's warm, high-spirited tone and everyone's willingness to welcome people whom longtime attendee Adrienne Malley calls "stray cats." The core group of old friends may be tight, but they are never exclusive. "We adopt any nonattached person," according to Adrienne's daughter, Jenny Malley. "We invite and include."

When Christina, now thirty-two, was in high school, she invited her friend Kristi McClamroch. Kristi traveled from North Carolina to be at last year's party, and she brought along her Indian fiancé. Everyone addressed her as "Doctor" all evening, in honor of her recently bestowed Ph.D. A former neighbor, now a widow, surprises everyone by showing up with a different date every year.

Inspecting potential or new spouses is an important function of the evening. Last year Kathleen Singer's son Ben Wilson brought his girlfriend, Maricarmen Le Gassick, from Austin, Texas. It was her "entrée into the Ann Arbor riffraff," laughs Singer. Maricarmen passed her inspection with flying colors.

The separation of adults and kids remains a rigid ritual—even though the "kids" now range in age from thirty-nine to infancy. "We've told all of the kids that when we're eighty and they're fifty, they will still be 'the kids,'" says Singer. The rule is that adults sit at one end of the long table on real furniture while kids hold up the other end on folding chairs.

Kids repair to another room after dinner to play games like Pictionary and "to catch up and talk about old times and new times," says Jenny Malley. She organized the games at the first party twenty-five years ago, earning the eternal title of General Jenny. Adults do the dishes and retrieve the furniture from the porch. "We have a great system for putting the house back together," says Adrienne Malley. "Everyone knows their job."

Another tradition, sacredly observed, is picking up the phone after dessert and calling people around the country to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." ("We always get a little silly," observes Jenny Malley. "Remember, wine is involved.") Former neighbors Tom and Laurie White, who moved to California several years ago, are always the first call. Millie's late mother had a Christmas Eve birthday; in years past the first call went to her in Florida. When Kathleen Singer's son Dan Wilson, now thirty-three, was in elementary school, he thought that the reason for the party was to assemble a crowd to sing "Happy Birthday" to Millie's mother.

Millie's party still begins and ends early. By 10 p.m. all the little ones will have been whisked home to bed by their parents, the grown-up "kids." The much older grown-ups will have finished their chores and gone home.

Christmas Day at Millie and Doug's is as predictable and tradition bound as Christmas Eve. Tired from the previous day's bustle, Millie arises late, opens presents with her family, eats party leftovers, and spends the day in her bathrobe.

—Penny Schreiber



Last year Millie Empedocles and Doug Turner hosted thirty-eight people around a rented table that snaked its way through three rooms.

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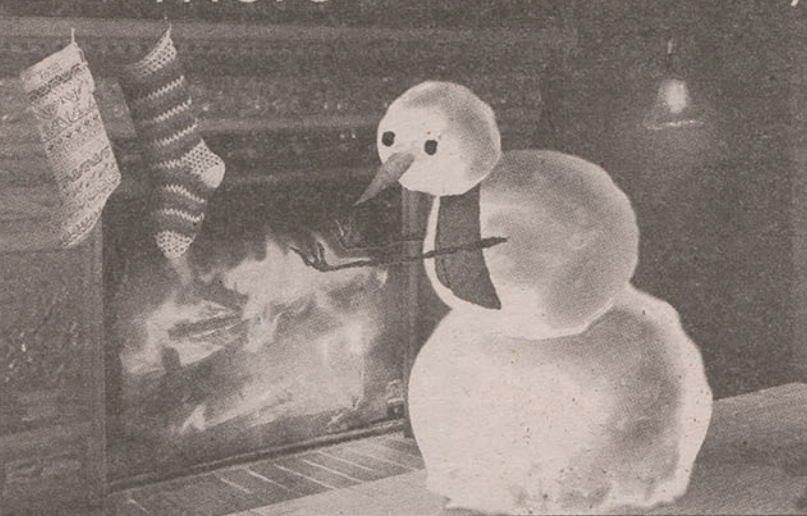


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## CREATIVE SHOPPING

continued

Glow Dino (\$11), a miniature dig with a sixteen-inch luminescent stegosaurus skeleton buried in plaster for excavation and assembly. The museum also carries impressive model dinosaurs (museum quality, natch). Brachiosaurus is \$26, velociraptor \$6.50, apatosaurus \$19 (that's a brontosaurus, to those of you who grew up with *The Flintstones*).



Beyond the diorama: Dinos on the loose at the U-M Exhibit Museum. Right: Wooden watches at Castle Remedies. Below: With twenty pockets, Adray Camera's Pod untangles personal electronics.

they're not "blood diamonds" smuggled out of places like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola, where the illegal diamond trade buys guns for terrorists.

You know you're a redneck if someone gives you a Larry the Cable Guy talking lighter (\$6) from Jack's Hardware on Packard. It's decorated with a Confederate banner, and when the lid is lifted, it pipes up with the rural comedian's catchphrase, "Get 'er done!" The most popular gift at Jack's: a screwdriver whose handle unscrews to reveal fourteen other screwdrivers with differently sized and shaped heads,



\$15. The clerk who showed it to me had already bought one for everyone on his list.

White chocolate maggots, anyone? The package, \$8 at Morgan & York, says they're "tastier than the average maggot," but even

For a gift as political statement: consider a seventeen-inch-tall plush George W. Bush doll with flames erupting from his pants, \$16 at the Planet on South University. That infoshop also sells fair trade coffee alongside \$6 mugs with plenty of caffeinated attitude (one reads "F@\*K decaf"; another screams, "Coffee now, dammit!").

In England in the 1960s, Ben Sherman shirts were part of the youth culture's essential uniform, along with Levis and a pair of Doc Martens. Today, supergroups like Blur and Oasis are avid Ben Sherman followers. You can help someone be tragically hip with a Ben Sherman wallet-and-cuff-links set, \$60, from Cool Waves on South University (black leather, embossed with a Union Jack).

though they're not real maggots, I was too chicken to find out. A more appealing visual: chocolate truffles, buttercreams, caramels, tree nut clusters, and chocolate turtles made by Sweet Gem Confections, a small artisan chocolate shop that recently opened inside Morgan & York. Made by owner-chocolatier Nancy Biehn from fine *couverture* chocolate, fresh cream, real butter, fruits, nuts, spices, and top-shelf liqueurs, they're \$3.50 for a twosome, \$39.50 for a box of twenty-four.

Almost nothing is cozier than chenille. La Belle Maison, on Stadium, has scrumptious chenille baby jackets, robes, and blankets for \$18-\$40, and adult-size chenille robes for \$90. Available in navy, light blue, white, and pink, they are as cuddly to hug as they are to wear.

Even committed Luddites need to keep track of the time. Ease the pain of reliance on technology with a gorgeous \$60 hardwood watch from Castle Remedies on Huron Parkway. The band, face, and dial are all made of cherry, teak, or mahogany (the interior works are made of sterner stuff). Castle Remedies also has beautiful, buttery yellow beeswax candles and luminaries, \$5-\$26.

For a beautiful and socially conscious gift, Austin & Warburton on South Main sells Canadian Maple Leaf Arctic Ice diamonds. They're laser inscribed with an image of a maple leaf and an ID number—both invisible to the naked eye—so buyers can be assured

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PARIS

PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE



There are carryalls and then there is the Pod, an award-winning, oddly endearing soft-sided carrying case for cameras, MP3 players, or handheld computers, with enough room left over for cell phones and other accessories. With over twenty pockets, a unique winged design that organizes electronic devices, cords, and batteries neatly on the bag's exterior, and a selection of friendly colors including lemon yellow and bright red, it's \$45 at Adray Camera on Washtenaw.

Fans of mystery writer Martha Grimes will recognize Old Peculiar as amateur sleuth Melrose Plant's ale of choice. It's \$12 a six-pack at Whole Foods Market. A bit of trivia: it's not called peculiar because it's weird beer; in England, a "peculiar" is a church or parish under the jurisdiction of a diocese other than the one in which it lies.

In the kitchen stainless steel is for everyday use, but when it comes to jewelry, it looks and feels quite special. GCI Jewelers on Washtenaw has elegant stainless steel hoop earrings (\$90), bangle bracelets (\$90), and a lustrous necklace (\$60), as well as stainless steel crosses strung on sleek rubber neck bands (\$60).

Desert islands, treasure, hungry sharks, treacherous seas, and pirate battles await you in Dread Pirate, an old-fashioned board game packaged in a wooden treasure chest and played on a wonderfully illustrated cloth treasure map. It's \$70 at Arborland's Bombay Company. Be the first pirate to collect all types of jewels and land on Dread Island to become the most feared and powerful captain on the high seas. Arrrrrrrr, matey!

Snorkelers who are tired of spitting out a mouthful of water when they surface will like the Ultra Dry snorkeling mask at Divers Inc. (\$45). It has a special valve that seals completely on descent. Divers who are tired of putting their cameras in big, boxy plastic containers will enjoy a five-megapixel digital underwater camera, completely waterproof and good to 200 feet. It's \$550.

My kitchen is spatially challenged. I could make good use of a Wüsthof under-the-counter knife block that holds eight knives and pivots for easy access. It's \$60 at Arbor Vacuum on Packard. Of course, then I'd also need some Wüsthof knives to go with it. Arbor Vacuum stocks those, too, and the all-steel models are especially gorgeous. They include steak knives, paring knives, two different carving knives, five different sizes of cooks' knives (also called chefs' knives), and the superspecialized salmon slicer. I'm guessing it probably slices other stuff, too.

**I** know of few parents who would actively encourage their teenage daughters to get a tattoo, but even the most conservative mom and dad might go for exotic temporary tattoos in the shape of elegant butterflies, \$15 at Rasul's in Briarwood. Also at Briarwood, girls and boys of all ages love Chelsea Teddy Bear Company's cuddly custom bears. For \$14.95 you get your choice of bears from one of five industrial-size bins, a tiny tee, and a

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# CREATIVE SHOPPING

continued

stock imprint ("Merry Christmas," "I love you," etc.). My favorite: Theodore, billed as "extra squishy."

If you know a hipster who favors jeans that look as if they've had a run-in with a paper shredder, Hollister Co. is your holiday headquarters. The Briarwood boutique is ultratrendy, from the distressed denim, pounding alt music, and low ambient lighting to the low-slung leather lounge chairs, perfect for slouching and looking disaffected. One jarring note: the male mannequins are headless and, in some cases, armless, but they have bulging crotches—all for showing off the correct drape of the jeans, to be sure.

Wilsons Leather smells like the interior of a brand-new luxury car, thanks to a gleaming inventory of soft leather goods, including suede driving caps in purple, camel, and chocolate brown (\$50); a collection of smart, bright red leather accessories, including lipstick case, cigarette case, card case, and key ring (\$10-\$20); and rich-looking handbags. My pick here: a pair of mod-looking white leather driving gloves lined with Thinsulate, \$60.

Pottery Barn's Classic Grand Phones sport bright colors and a distinctive vintage design that conceals modern conveniences like flash, redial, and push buttons (\$59). Another popular retro piece: a tabletop clock styled like an antique English pocket watch, with brass case, stylized Roman numerals, and a little easel for display. A small version is \$24, a larger one \$59.

I'm not sure what makes a shaggy vanity seat a "mood stool," but it's cute and foldable and comes covered in cheerful purple, lime green, white, or pink faux fur. It's \$18 at the Icing. A product called the Icing (no connection) by Conair also caught my attention. It looks sort of like a blow dryer, but instead of hot air, it appears to shoot tiny faux jewels into your hair (jeweled refill cartridges also available).

Golfers will love a Bushnell laser Yardage Pro that operates with one hand and tells them how far they are from the green—bow hunters can use it, too. Dobbs Optical, in the Colonnade, sells it for \$350. And just about everyone over age forty-five could use a pair of microvision reading glasses, \$69, that fit into a working pen. The lenses are about the size of the reading half of a pair of bifocals, and are available in standard magnifications.

The inventory at Egizmos changes from week to week, but it's a good bet for picking up neat, inexpensive electronic gadgets, like a miniature FM pocket radio the size of a Swiss Army knife, \$9, and the \$35 Stealth Switch, "the world's first desktop cloaking device," which wipes

your screen at just one touch. It might just save your job if you're busy playing Texas Hold 'Em when you should be finishing those spreadsheets.

Perani's Hockey World, inside the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, sells a small indoor hockey rink pad with interlocking pieces for \$50 (add \$28 for a net). Stocking stuffers include streak hockey pucks, \$2, and glow-in-the-dark roller hockey pucks, \$3 (the fluorescence makes them easy to find when they roll under parked cars).

**G**ive someone a better memory, with a Swiss Army flash drive from Wilkinson Luggage in Scio Town Center. For \$190 you get a full gigabyte of storage space for your computer files—either with the usual Swiss Army tools or in an "airline safe" version without. And remember "the claw" from *Toy Story*? I tell my son those

arcade games are a rip-off, because it's almost impossible to pick up a stuffed animal. But Wilkinson's "Sweet Machine" can be loaded with candy, small toys, or virtually anything that fits. Buy one, and you get unlimited tries to win a prize. Best of all, if you get completely frustrated, you can just open the thing and grab what you want. It's \$29.95.

The staff at Kitchen Port has informally declared this the Year of the Salt Pig. What's a salt pig? A ceramic pig, made in France, whose belly is a bowl for serving sea and kosher salt. It's \$32.50 and comes with its own serving spoon. Also at Kitchen Port, what may well be the hottest gift of the year: the Easy Lid, a universal lid made of flexible silicone that seals bowls and pans shut with just a touch of your finger. Once the seal's in place, you can pick the whole bowl up by the lid and it won't come off. Who needs plastic wrap? It's \$15.95.

Objet d'Art carries lots of teapots and accent pieces in animal shapes, like an \$85 rabbit peeking out of the leaves and turtle-shaped planters already potted with ivy. A pair of massive green ceramic vases, \$195 each, caught my eye—they would look magnificent on an oversize mantel, as they're shown in the store.

A lamp might be a risky gift, but not one of Top of the Lamp's clever finials. The decorative metal pieces that hold the lamp shade to the harp can give even a boring lamp some much-needed personality. Selections include brass Bugs Bunny (\$15) and Tweety (\$19), soccer balls (\$27), baseballs (\$34), and pewter grapes (\$18). Top of the Lamp also has a nice selection of night-lights, including a Tiffany-

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The staff at Kitchen Port has informally declared this the Year of the Salt Pig.

style version in red and green jewel tones (\$25) and a zebra-striped fabric number with green fringe that looks a bit like a lightbulb wearing a muumuu (\$12).

Doctors and others who have to spend a lot of time on their feet swear by Klogs, soft, washable, clog-style shoes molded from industrial-strength polyurethane and available in a bunch of fun colors. Slip resistant, lightweight, flexible, and with a full-length cushioned foot bed to absorb shock, they're \$55 at Uniforms & More in the Courtyard Shops.

Raise breast cancer awareness, give money to a good cause, and celebrate inventive artistry with a 2006 Wellness Art Bra calendar, \$15 at Cloth Encounters. Each month's photo features a different bra, transformed by feathers, sequins, cloth scraps—or even oddities like chocolate and miniature padlocks—into an amazing work of art. Proceeds go to the Way to Women's Wellness, a grassroots organization that promotes women's health. As the group's website puts it, "Look what a few women and a simple 36C cup can do!"

Quadrilla is the next generation of marble runs. It's a system of blocks, tracks, and accessory pieces you can build and rebuild into an amazing working sculpture that sends marbles rolling, dropping, swirling, and popping out of a teeter-totter. Starting at \$49.95 at White Rabbit Toys, it includes beautiful wooden tracks and a rainbow of colored blocks. Also at White Rabbit is a delightful CD called *Nicky's Jazz Lullabies* that features the sweetly sleepy tunes of greats like Nat King Cole, Peggy Lee, Chet Baker, and Judy Garland, \$18.95.

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For those who prefer to make their own art, Norton's also sells an herb and flower press for \$26. But recipients should be forewarned: pressing your own flora is a little like using a Ouija board. Those who are at all vulnerable to spirits stronger than their own may find they've unleashed a power they're not able to handle. Martha's off the electronic tether. And she's out there, waiting.

PHOTO J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

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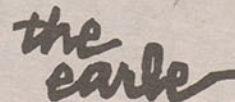
\*Sunday brunch will not be available on Dec. 11, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1

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MEDITERRANEO

Weber's

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## RESTAURANTS

### The West End Grill

#### Classic perfection

I am as eager as the next person to shove 2005 out the door. After such a year, one is naturally a little jittery about what 2006 might spring on us. In these moments, it helps to seek out places and people who've treated us well over time. For me, that means the West End Grill (and apparently for a lot of others, too; it's one of the most difficult spots in town to get a reservation). Roland Pohlman's restaurant just celebrated its tenth anniversary, and over the past decade it has built, dinner by dinner, an unshakable reputation for gastronomic delight.

From the beginning, it exuded a quiet glamour and attracted local leading lights. On my first visit, in 1997, the U-M's rock star president, Lee Bollinger, held court at a table; on one of my latest, artist David Zinn and company shared a nightcap at the bar. It is low key and at the same time celebratory, the kind of place to fete anniversaries and out-of-town guests, and one of the few restaurants in Ann Arbor where coats and ties still outnumber jeans.

I'm always surprised at how small it is—just the main dining room, loosely divided by a half-height wall, and a six-seater bar off to the side. The room exudes both a comfortable clubiness and dark romance, the former fostered by wainscoting and Ansel Adams prints, the latter by a late-nineteenth-century pressed-tin ceiling and stained-glass accents, including a magnificent peacock that swirls behind the bar. The interior hasn't changed noticeably in the ten years, but it is subtly updated (it got fabulous new glass-and-slate loos last year) and exquisitely maintained. On a visit in early October, for instance, I was struck by the clunkiness of the old-style wineglasses. Two weeks later they'd been replaced by graceful new stemware.

In a city that has more than its share of student waitstaff, the West End's corps of rock-steady professionals sets the restaurant apart. They pamper without making an embarrassing show of it. They know the menu backward and forward—having, literally, memorized the entire carte. At each table sits a little chalkboard listing the roughly twelve appetizers and fourteen main courses by short title. The staff run through it with the guests, explaining each preparation and side dishes. It makes for easy interaction with the servers, who will tell you, as ours did, to steer clear of the mussels and the blue cheese tart, and head instead for the lobster turnovers.

The turnovers were marvelous little packets of sweet lobster meat wrapped in crisp phyllo dough and plated with a swirl of a salty-creamy tomato-based reduction. Excellent as they were, they were matched by the Pacific Rangoon, wonton skins stuffed with cream cheese, smoked salmon, and crab and served with a spicy



JOHN COPLEY

dipping sauce—a superrefined version of the Chinese-restaurant standard. The sesame tuna is another knockout: fresh and tender tuna coated with sesame seeds, barely seared, and accompanied by a crunchy seaweed salad with a real ocean tang and a touch of wasabi.

That tuna appetizer was one of the few dishes that felt more this-century, and punctuated my one reservation about the West End—that this is essentially the same style of food these people served ten years ago. It's not that I want them to go all El Bulli foamy on us—but it wouldn't hurt to use some of that extraordinary kitchen talent to bring more recent developments from the outside culinary world to Ann Arbor.

On the other hand, regressing to the irrationally exuberant 1990s is such a pleasant delusion, and the West End has such a heavenly hand with certain classics. All of the steaks we tried were excellent—the ten-ounce Kobe with cilantro-lime-paprika butter, the tenderloin crusted with herbes de Provence, the filet béarnaise, the Maytag steak. That last one, a lush fillet, was my favorite. After it's split, it's stuffed with Maytag blue cheese, which just sort of melts to create a rich, gooey sauce, with toasted pine nuts to add some texture; it's plated with a Zinfandel-and-red-currant reduction. The filet béarnaise was a close second. Here, the meat is stuffed with lobster. Though the lobster was overwhelmed by the beef, it's worth ordering just for the velvety béarnaise sauce singing with fresh tarragon. The herb-crusted venison chops were among the best I'd ever had, robustly flavored but nearly as tender as the fillet, and served with lively mango-ginger chutney.

Side dishes can range from very good to mere afterthoughts. One night the Asiago-garlic potato puree was divine; on another, the straight mashed potatoes were boring. Salads, served before the main

course (and included in the price of the entree), were a fairly standard mesclun mix, but always fresh, bounteous, and tossed with excellent dressings, such as creamy garlic or champagne vinaigrette.

While there's not much beyond salad and appetizers for the vegetarian, there is plenty of seafood on the board: shrimp, scallops, sea bass, tuna, and salmon. The Chilean sea bass (a species many chefs avoid because it has been heavily overfished) was perfectly steamed, but the soy-ginger spicing was too wimpy the night I tried it. The scallops were better. On the advice of the bartender, I ordered them grilled rather than seared, and they arrived plump, striped with grill marks, and plated with a Sauvignon Blanc-lobster sauce.

Among the desserts, only the Key lime pie and crème brûlée are made in house. The others are made by Decadent Delight, in Scio Township, and are indeed generally delightful, whether molten chocolate or one of the cheesecakes (the subtle pumpkin with a gingersnap crust is delicious). And the West End has decaffeinated espresso—one of those details that move it to a higher plane. Yet another is that even when a meal has stretched out over many cups of decaf or extra glasses from the very good wine list, I've never felt pressured to move on.

Back in the minuscule kitchen, cooking for a full house almost every night, there are just four people—the head chef, Jorge Garduno, along with a sous chef, chef garde-manger, and dishwasher. That's why each plate always feels like a handcrafted work of art instead of an assembly-line production.

With a dining room that seats only sixty-five, the chances of getting dinner without a reservation are pretty slim, particularly on weekends. But at the risk of ruining an insiders' secret, one of my favorite ways to enjoy the West End is to pop in early or late in the evening and grab dinner at the bar (first come, first served). It feels as if we're dropping by the corner



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### RESTAURANTS *continued*

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## Shalimar Restaurant

### Return to Main Street

In August, Shalimar Restaurant returned to its newly renovated space on Main near Liberty after a two-year exile of sorts on East Washington. (The Washington Street location remains open as the more casual Shalimar Cafe, with a distinctly different menu.)

Shalimar's refurbished digs make it, hands down, the prettiest Indian restaurant in town. With muted earth-tone walls, flashes of red, and elegant touches like a single crystal chandelier up front and a row of deco light fixtures suspended from a barrel-vaulted ceiling, the effect is striking. Upholstered booths line the back wall, and a long wood bar anchors the room's midsection. White tablecloths lend a formal air, but stylized painted murals of Udaipur's Lake Palace Hotel help promote an Edenic Rajasthani funk. In spots, there can also be a bit of a Himalayan draft from an overzealous air-conditioning system, but staff are accommodating in helping diners find a comfortable seat. (If only they'd been able to dislocate the cellphone-shouting wheeler-dealer lunching at a nearby table. "What sign am I?" he hollered into the phone, apparently repeating a question from the other end. "I'm a dollar sign.")

Shalimar's transformation is more than skin deep. The owners added a new kitchen in the rear in what were previously alleyway parking spaces—and good things are happening back there. The accent at Shalimar is on northern Indian cooking, in broad terms, with meaty Kashmiri, rich Moghal, and hearty Punjabi favorites such as tikkas of all variety, grilled or curried chicken and lamb, and *biryani* rice spreads.

Another feature that sets Shalimar apart from many of its Indian brethren is the absence of a lunch buffet. To me, that's a

plus. Okay, it's cheap, filling, and fun to sample different dishes, but the buffet is too often a display of once good food gone mediocre on a steam table. Who wants a samosa that's been sitting out for an hour?

My late lunch at Shalimar with a friend started with a cup of the house-brewed *chai*, milky black tea infused with spices like cardamom, cloves, ginger, and cinnamon, to take off the autumn chill. That warming tack continued with a lemony lentil soup garnished with cilantro (lunch plates include a soup or salad). Almost anyone yearning for the volume of a buffet will be satisfied with the midday main course with several side dishes, all artfully arranged on angular white porcelain. I liked the *machli tikka*, two boneless pieces of mahimahi bathed in spices and yogurt and seared in a tandoor oven. That spice bath gave it a tangy savory crust and provided a delightful contrast to the neutral taste of the fish. At the suggestion of our exceptionally helpful waiter, my companion chose a meat combination plate built around chicken tikka and lamb curry. The fish and meat platters both came with a fairly tame zucchini-tomato dish, fresh tomato-onion-cucumber relish, rice, and naan flat bread. At that first meal, we ordered at the medium level for spiciness, and although the spices were well fused and provided interest, I found myself yearning for more fire, particularly in the lamb curry.

Though business was slow at lunch, the reopened location is already a hit with evening diners, among them many families. A friend raves about its child-pleasing ability and brought along her kids, ages six and twelve, to prove it. They're delighted with dishes like the crispy onion *bhaji* appetizer (as accessible as onion rings, but in patty form, with tiny dishes of cilantro-mint chutney and sweet-sour *imli* tamarind chutney), *dal makhni* (rich black lentil curry—mild, for those tender palates, but still flavorful), and *methi malai matar* (peas and spinach with fenugreek leaves in a creamy sauce). Add fresh naan and a cooling strawberry or mango lassi yogurt drink for a meal that is not just kid friendly but also interesting and reasonably healthy. With Shalimar's generous portions, a family of four can easily get by with two shared main courses, so it's a decent value as well.

Visiting Shalimar on a busy Friday night, I conducted another experiment. This time the test subject was my husband, who has a certain aversion to Indian food—probably the legacy of a Bengali former girlfriend, who was a fine journalist but a god-awful cook of her native land's cuisine. I had a feeling Shalimar might be the place to entice him back to Indian food, which I've always adored.

We started with fat, crunchy shrimp *pakor*as (again with the mint-cilantro and tamarind dips) and *galouti* kabob, thin cakes of savory ground chicken seared on a *tawa* griddle. So far so good. The main courses arrived a little later than they should have, but were nonetheless good—*navrattan korma*, a thick stew of nuts, carrots, potatoes, cauliflower, and beans in a





JOHN COPLEY

creamy sauce, and a huge tandoori mixed-grill platter. Among the latter's best were a ground lamb *seek kabob*, the *jheenga* shrimp, and tender *murgh* (chicken). On this visit, the medium spice level was good and hot. A mix of plain and garlic naan—utterly fresh and lightly charred—and fluffy basmati rice flavored with roasted cumin seeds rounded out the successful meal: he was converted. I didn't want to push it; he was not quite ready for treacly Indian desserts, so we skipped out and got a pint of pistachio frozen custard next door at Ritter's.

Beyond its sheer prettiness, Shalimar's strength is broad accessibility—its family friendliness, wide-ranging vegetarian and meat options, and servers who Sherpa newcomers wisely through the terrain of Indian cuisine. If Shalimar continues to grow more popular, your greatest challenge here may be getting a table.

#### Shalimar Restaurant 307 South Main 663-1500

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## Quick Bites

When I eat something interesting at a restaurant, I nearly always try to replicate it at home. Now the local Huron River Press has published two cookbooks from Ann Arbor-area restaurants that promise to alleviate some of the guesswork.

*Mainstreet Ventures: Distinctive Recipes from Distinctive Eateries* is \$35 at

bookstores as well as at Mainstreet's Gratz, the Chop House, La Dolce Vita, Palio, Real Seafood, and Carson's. It's a handsome volume, though its organizational oddities—such as listing tartar sauce and fish stock under steaks and chops in the table of contents—give one pause. Given the number of Mainstreet restaurants and the many dishes they produce, editing down their collection of "thousands" of recipes was surely not easy; they write that these are their most popular dishes. Alas, my own favorites (Gratz's risotto cake and its Florentine steak) did not make it, but Gratz's top-selling Parmesan-crusted sole with caper *beurre blanc* did, with clear, easy-to-follow directions. Beginner cooks will find the appendices helpful, including pasta basics and what to look for when you're buying fish.

Craig Common's *Return to the Common Grill* (doesn't it sound like an indie film title?) is hot off the press and gorgeous. I recognized lots of my favorites from the Chelsea restaurant here—the garlic-custard-with-wild-mushroom ragout, grilled shrimp with cheddar grits, grilled vegetable sandwich on herbed flat bread, and the wonderful focaccia. Also \$35, Common's book is well organized, mainly based on the usual appetizers-fish-meat-salads-desserts model, with useful sections on brunch and sandwiches. I particularly liked the chapters "The Essentials" (how to make your own stocks, butters, and bread) and "Sauces," which covers the obvious but also marinades, chutneys, and aioli—the kind of thing that will lift an ordinary piece of grilled fish or meat to something extraordinary. Common will be signing copies this month at Kitchen Port on Zeeb Road (2 p.m. November 27), the downtown Borders (7 p.m. November 29), and Nicola's Books at Westgate (7 p.m. December 1).

—Bix Engels

Send tips, quips, and comments on local restaurants to the Bix Tip Line at [bixtips@comcast.net](mailto:bixtips@comcast.net).

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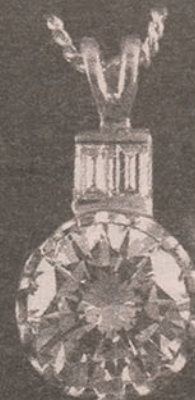
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# MARKETPLACE CHANGES



Silvio and Catia Medoro with son, Giovanni, and daughter, Francesca, at Silvio's Organic Pizza.

## Pizza and fashion on North U

### Silvio's meets Beanie June

**D**iners at the new Silvio's Organic Pizza are paying owner-chef Silvio Medoro the highest compliment: they're eating their pizza crust.

Medoro, who grew up in the Abruzzo region of Italy and spent nineteen years working his family's olive farm and bakery, thinks most American-style pizza crust is doughy and flavorless—and he thinks many Americans agree. Otherwise, he wonders, why would they waste so much perfectly good crust?

Medoro worked in construction for nine years to raise enough capital to start his own business. Silvio's opened in Hamilton Square, the North University mini-mall between State and Thayer, in October. There, Medoro is putting in seventeen-hour days making hand-tossed pizza from organic flour, imported olive oil, and a wealth of other ingredients—pepperoni, sausage, and mushrooms, of course, but also potato, asparagus, rapini, capers, tuna, and Brie. One inspired combination pairs onions and peas with bacon and eggs!

Medoro's crust is light and flaky, more like pastry than pizza dough. It's showcased to best advantage in his take on a stuffed pizza, a light, crisp pie stuffed with sausage and potatoes one day, ricotta and spinach the next. There are always five or six fresh pizzas at the order counter, sold by the slice for \$1.75 to \$2.50.

Silvio's also offers traditional calzones, grilled sandwiches on homemade bread, and organic pasta topped with either garlic and oil or one of four sauces. There are homemade soups, too, including chicken,

minestrone, bean, and cream of broccoli; Medoro's favorite is soup made from spelt, a high-protein, wheatlike grain that puffs up like rice when it cooks.

Medoro is working on home delivery, and he's having a great time introducing customers to new flavors. "Today, the pizza was arugula. Tomorrow, maybe *capriciosa*," he says. "Whatever I make, people seem to like it. I make them content, so that makes me happy."

*Silvio's Organic Pizza, 715 North University, 214-6666. Daily 10 a.m.-midnight.*

**Beanie June Boutique**, also in Hamilton Square, opened about the same time as Silvio's. Its hip clothes and chic decor belie the fact that it's very much a family operation owned by Lauren Sanford and her parents, Mary and Ted. Lauren and Mary own 49 percent each; Ted owns the remaining 2 percent. "I have the controlling interest," he laughs.

Lauren, who grew up in Ann Arbor, had graduated from Michigan State and was finishing up a temp job as a nanny in Chicago when she asked her mom if she'd like to open a clothing store with her. "Would I!" Mary remembers saying. "I jumped at it."

When the family got the keys to the space, a former Super Cuts hair salon, they swung into action like a well-oiled machine. Together, they built the unfinished plywood display racks, painted, tore out the carpet, and slaved for hours removing the glue from the newly exposed concrete floor. The finished space is lovely, with a contemporary chocolate-brown-and-turquoise color scheme and two dressing rooms hung with lush curtains. It's a deceptively simple showcase for the store's clothing lines, which come from New York, Los Angeles, and Texas.

Lauren says her sense of style comes from Mary, an interior designer, and from her grandmothers—in fact, the store is named after one of them (nickname: Beanie; middle name: June). Mother and daughter are having a blast stocking the store with fun, flirty cocktail fashions from designers like Molly and Sugarlips as well as more conservative clothing that will interest both older shoppers looking for elegant office wear and college students looking for a stylish interview outfit. At the front of the shop, a collection of luscious Redfish Design knit scarves catches the eye.

Both women are slim and vibrant, perfect models for the store's inventory. One blustery November day, Mary was resplendent in a pair of black velvet crop pants. "These are from the younger side of the store," she confides unapologetically, "but they're so comfortable!"

*Beanie June Boutique, 715 North University, 332-5933. Holiday hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (possible extended evening hours Thurs. & Fri.), Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.*

## Kerrytown's new kitchen store

### Mary Campbell branches out

**K**errytown has been looking for someone to open a kitchen store ever since Kitchen Port moved out at the end of its lease last year. Now Mary Campbell, owner of Everyday Wines, is opening a kitchen store she's calling **Everyday Cook**. She hopes to be in business by the middle of December.

Campbell had always envisioned cross-promoting her wine shop with a kitchen store—she just didn't imagine she'd be the one running it. But the more Kerrytown general manager Karen Farmer talked to her about how Campbell envisioned a new kitchen store tenant, the more Campbell realized she wanted to do it herself. "We talk about food all day with people in the wine shop, and about cooking," she says. "They just go hand in hand, so it makes sense for [the stores] to go hand in hand."

Everyday Cook will take over the 5,000-square-foot space above Holland-er's, space that once belonged to Workbench. It will debut in December with an initially limited inventory of cookware, kitchen accessories, tableware, and specialty food items; after the holidays it will be

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## MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*



Mary Campbell aims to open Everyday Cook in December, then expand it over the next year, the next years, the one running it.

reinvented as a more complete cooking-lifestyles store. By next fall Campbell plans to have a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen and dining area for demonstrations, cooking classes (complete with a stroll through the Farmers' Market to pick up ingredients), and DIY events where customers can come and cook several dinners to take home and freeze.

As with Everyday Wines, which focuses on value over big-name vintners, Everyday Cook will be stocked with lesser-known items that meet Campbell's standards of quality and usability. "This is about not filling your kitchen with unnecessary gadgets, and about buying whole sets of cookware you don't really need," she says. "It's about finding items of good value that will stand up over time."

An example might be a paella pan: designed for the one-pot Spanish specialty dish, it's actually a versatile performer, and can be used in any number of other ways. Campbell encourages customers to choose workhorse items that suit their cooking style. Japanese cookware and knives, she points out, are useful in preparing almost any cuisine; beautifully designed, they're also pretty to display.

Campbell envisions cookware displayed with information cards that detail not only product features, but creative uses as well. "We don't want to just be a place where people buy cookware," she says. "We want to teach people how to make cooking part of their everyday lives without it becoming a chore."

*Everyday Cook*, 405 North Fifth Avenue (Kerrytown). Phone unavailable at press time; call *Everyday Wines* at 827-9463. Probable holiday hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Exercise and coffee at Fantasy Forest

*Grown-ups chill while kids vent steam*

**F**antasy Forest fulfills two fantasies at once. The first is any kid's fantasy of a nonstop play environment with great crafts and toys. The second is a grown-up fantasy of being able to relax and enjoy a nice lunch while your kids let off steam. As most parents know, the latter has always been harder to satisfy than the former.

Joelyn Welch is one of those parents. Mom to two-and-a-half-year-old Mya, Welch was sick of Chuck E. Cheese's and McDonald's and weary of driving to Jungle Java, a combination cafe and play space in Canton. She thought the area badly needed a place where parents could chill while kids charged around, and where play dates and birthday parties could take place



Coworkers Joelyn Welch and Candice James teamed up to create Fantasy Forest.



on neutral territory. She had been researching the idea for a few months when she mentioned it to a coworker, Candice James, who surprised her by confiding that she herself had been doing research on planning kids' birthday parties. "We pooled our research and our business plans and came up with Fantasy Forest," Welch says.

When Fantasy Forest opens in the Glencoe Crossing shopping center in December, it will feature an enormous, brightly colored, four-level play structure; a makeup and dress-up area that will include puppet theater facades and props; and an infant and toddler area for gentler play. The space will also have what Welch and James call the Exploration Station: an area for storytelling, sing-alongs, playing musical instruments, making crafts, and conducting science experiments.

The entire play area will be visible from the Garden Cafe, a trellised dining area with silk plants and flowers and lots of comfortable seating. There, diners can nosh on baked goods supplied by Dom Bakeries; fruit, cheese, and other healthy snacks; and salads, sandwiches, pizza and other food provided by the Bistro Bar & Grill next door. The menu is still coming together—in fact, the partners are soliciting input from potential customers at [fantasy-forest.com](http://fantasy-forest.com)—but will probably include vegetarian, organic, and dairy-free options.

The space is 5,100 square feet, but Welch and James want it to look comfortable and welcoming. They're working with an interior designer and an artist who's creating murals. The carpeting will help unify the space, with each area a different color, and a differently textured "path" leading through the room. There will be plenty of seating throughout the play area as well, so parents and caregivers can still interact with kids.

Welch says Fantasy Forest is eagerly anticipated by all she's told about it, including Mya, who's been watching the design come together on Welch's computer and has been asking her mom to hurry up and build it for her so she can go there and play.

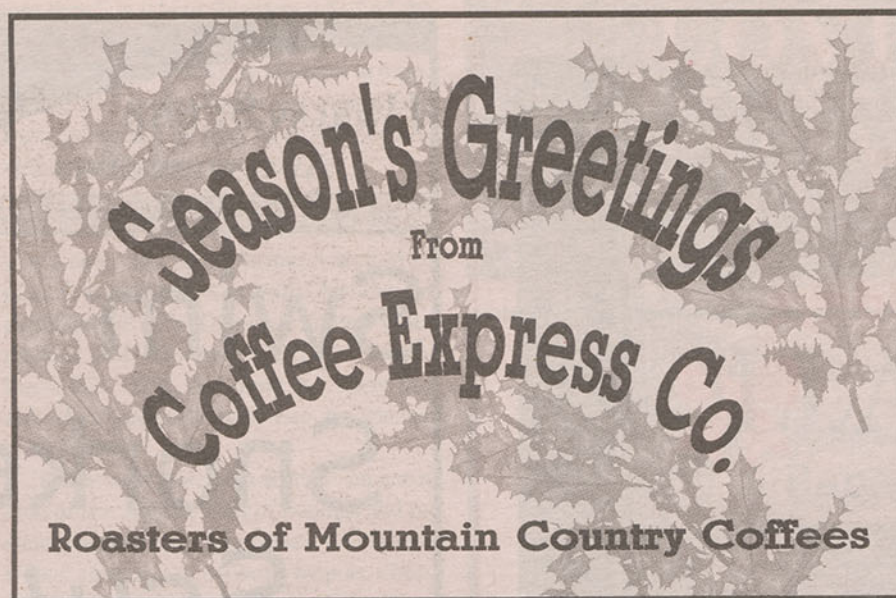
*Fantasy Forest, 4731 Washtenaw (Glencoe Crossing), 527-7137. Probable hours: daily 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.*

## Ionia Opens

### Arts of Southwest Asia

Ilkim Erturk longed to be a professional artist, but she ended up studying to be a veterinarian instead. The Istanbul native had won money in art competitions while still in high school, but her parents considered art an impractical career choice and urged her to follow in her veterinarian father's footsteps instead. Dutifully, she entered medical school in Turkey and was getting her Ph.D. in New York when she took a part-time job in a SoHo art gallery and got the first glimmer of how she could make art pay her a living wage.

When she left the Ph.D. program to join her fiancé, engineer Serdar Aricioglu, here in Ann Arbor, she was keeping a secret: she



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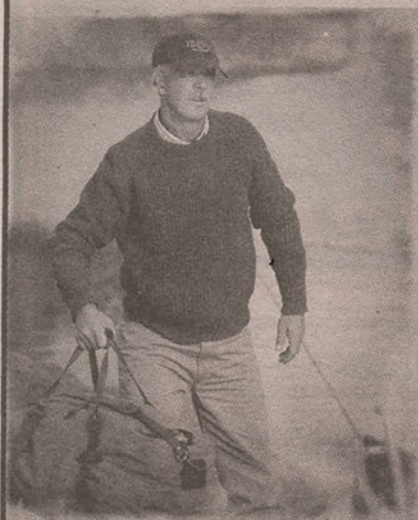
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was thinking of opening her own gallery. A stroll through the Nickels Arcade, which reminded her of Istanbul and where she spotted a vacant space, prompted her to confess to her fiancé. "He was shocked," she says. "He told me this wasn't New York—that my life would be changed forever. I said, 'Yes, it will. But I want that.'"

Erturk opened **Ionnia** in September. The gallery showcases finely detailed paintings, ceramics, pottery, and hand-blown glass from Turkey and Central Asia, including Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan. Every piece is handmade and bought directly from the artist, by either Erturk herself, her mother, or her brother, who speaks fluent Russian and has been invaluable talking to rural artisans, especially women, whose work is typically never seen outside their own countries—and for which, if they're lucky enough to sell it to a broker, they are often grossly underpaid. Many of the pieces are so intricate that they take months to make.

Some of the most fascinating pieces in the gallery are paintings and calligraphy with religious themes, painstakingly drawn by hand on preserved caladium and dieffenbachia leaves by an Armenian artist living in Turkey. Erturk says customers are also asking for antiques, though so far she has found and sold only one, an antique table runner from Uzbekistan.

Erturk is taking art classes, has resumed painting, and may display some of her own work in the shop once she's worked up enough nerve. In the meantime, she says she's happier than she's ever been—but busier and more tired, too. "My fiancé and I were thinking of getting married this Christmas, but I told him I don't have the energy to cut the cake," she laughs. The wedding has been postponed to next summer.

**Ionnia**, 8 Nickels Arcade, 222-8191. Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. Closed Mon.

## Briefly Noted

You don't have to be Chinese to enjoy shopping at **China Merchandise**—but it helps if you want to talk to the employees. The staff at the Asian market, open since 1993 in the Plymouth Road Mall, speak just enough English to carry them through cash register transactions and direct customers down the right aisle, but not enough to carry on more complex discourse. Thus the store expansion going on right now is something of a mystery, since the owner, identified by an employee as "Mr. Lee" (asked Lee's first name, the employee could say only that it was "Mister") was gracious but unable to say when the expansion began, what the final store layout will be, or even who his co-owners are.

One thing is sure: **China Merchandise** is popular. This is its second expansion since it opened; the store now occupies three adjoining storefronts. The original space, whose window sign exhorts customers to "experience different food cul-

ture here," is where shoppers will find the fresh-fish tanks and counter that lend the store its distinctive dockside aroma; canned and bottled foods and sauces; and fresh produce including tarot root, daikon radish, and durian.

The next room is stocked with seasonings, packaged goods, snack foods, juices, wine, beer, and an awesome selection of plain and flavored soy milk. Around the perimeter of both rooms are freezer cases packed with convenience foods, dumplings, fish, meat, and desserts. Along one aisle, fifty-pound bags of rice are stacked waist high.

The newest storefront features an entire wall of tea, another wall of noodles and instant noodle dishes à la ramen, and housewares: electric rice cookers, teapots, chopstick sets, silverware, utensils, cutting boards, coasters, and ceramic vases. CDs, jewelry, and oddities like ceramic bobble-headed cats and dogs remain behind a front counter. There's a phone here, too, but it never rings—perhaps because **China Merchandise** has an unlisted number.

**China Merchandise**, 2763-2767 Plymouth Road (Plymouth Road Mall), no phone number available. Sun.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

A year after moving hip boutique **Henrietta Fahrenheit** from downtown Ypsilanti to Ann Arbor's Nickels Arcade, owner Jennifer Albaum has taken her store to cyberspace.

Albaum says the reason for the decision was not financial problems—"Business wasn't peaches and cream, but it wasn't gloom and doom, either," she insists—but personal time constraints. An analyst for retail location firm MapInfo and an active member of local rock band, Albaum found she no longer enjoyed working twelve-hour days and eating microwaved frozen dinners every night. "I love what I do, but I can't do it that way anymore," she says. "I would work all day at MapInfo, and then be at the store catching up until one in the morning. I was starting to feel suffocated and stifled by all the tasks I had to do."

Replacing her brick-and-mortar store with e-commerce gives her the flexibility she craves, while allowing her to still do the things for the store she really loves, like buying inventory and finding new designers. Albaum hopes to add a review section to the store's website, where she'll write about a wide range of products, including those she doesn't sell. Eventually she'd like to do podcast interviews with designers and have them walk her—and listeners—through a project.

Fans can find Albaum and her store at [henriettafahrenheit.com](http://henriettafahrenheit.com).

**Arborland** shopping center has been sold to Connecticut-based companies Hart Realty Advisors and AmCap Inc. An institutional real estate advisor, Hart initiates or recommends real estate purchases for clients like state pension funds; it owns 90 percent, with the balance owned by

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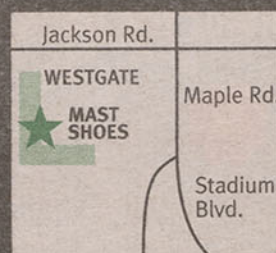
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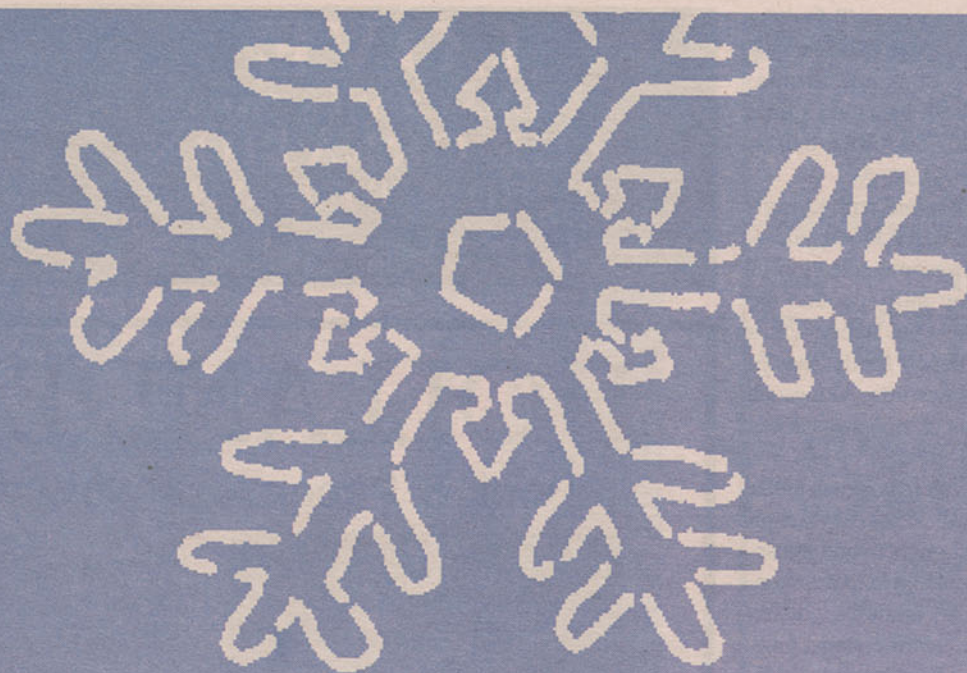
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MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*

AmCap, which buys and manages grocery-anchored retail centers across the country.

Built in 1961, Arborland founded after Briarwood opened in 1974 and was subsequently enclosed, a move that saved it for a few years. By the end of its enclosed incarnation, it had become a struggling discount mall, with many spaces vacant and others turning over rapidly.

Chicago-based Joseph Freed and Associates bought Arborland in 1997 and began renovations the following year. Freed demolished most of the original structure to reconfigure the once-ailing property into a 409,000-square-foot powerhouse that is now fully leased, with anchor tenants that include Old Navy, Borders Books & Music, and Hiller's Market. Freed put the shopping center on the market in July, and sold it for \$102 million in October.

Timothy Carland had been installing gas and wood-burning fireplaces and woodstoves for fifteen years when Mr. Fireplace closed on the west side of town. Seeing a hole in the market, Carland decided to fill it by opening **Ann Arbor Fireplace & Barbeque**, which debuted this October on Stadium Boulevard behind La Belle Maison.

The store sells everything you need to set up a gas or wood-burning fireplace: fireboxes, log sets, grates, fireplace doors, tool sets, and more. The showroom selection is modest, but many more items are available by catalog.

Although Carland gets a few customers who want to handle the installation themselves, most are looking for professional assistance, including help with the choice of wood versus gas and direct-vent versus vent-free. Vent-free units, which deliver more heat to the living space, are especially popular right now because of higher gas prices, as are wood-burning stoves.

**Ann Arbor Fireplace & Barbeque**, 2363 East Stadium Boulevard, 260-5310. Mon.-Wed. 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Ann Arbor's fifth **Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwich Shop** has opened in Traver Village. Founded in 1983 by the then nineteen-year-old Jimmy John Liautaud in a converted garage, the sub shop chain has proven especially popular in college towns, probably thanks to its combination of a simple formula (six meats, one cheese, and two breads are shuffled around to make twenty-two different sandwiches), low prices, and lots of attitude (signs in the store read "Hippies use side door" and "We'd love to see you naked, but state law requires you to wear shirt and shoes"). Jimmy John's now has almost 350 corporate and franchised locations.

**Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwich Shop**, 2615 Plymouth Road (Traver Village), 930-2000. Daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m.





Elaine Johns (right) hopes to persuade longtime Tree manager Jo Watne to come to work at Treasure Mart.

## Closings

Ann Arbor's oldest secondhand clothing store, the **Tree**, is closing its doors in December after forty-three years in business. It's hard to say which customers will miss more: the store, or longtime manager Josephine Watne. The eighty-three-year-old Watne has been a part of the business almost from the very beginning, and has been running the place since its founders, Demaris and Travis Cash, died. "Jo has been asking us to keep it open," says Elaine Johns, who with her sister, Jan Raber, inherited the Tree and Treasure Mart from their parents. "But our accountant has been telling us we've got to close it for five or six years. It's costing us money, and it just doesn't work anymore. It's so sad, especially for Jo."

Johns says that competition from other secondhand shops like Value World and the new Salvation Army store as well as discounters like Kohl's and Target have eaten away at the Tree's business. "You can get a brand-new shirt at sixty percent off for something like five dollars at Mervyn's," Johns says. "Why would you buy it used?"

When the Tree closes at the end of the year, Johns and Raber are hoping to convince Watne to come work at Treasure Mart. "We asked her if she wanted to buy the Tree for a dollar, but she said no," Johns says. "She's eighty-three, after all. But she's still a bundle of energy. We would love it if Jo would come over here."

**Tabor Hill Wine Tasting Room and Gallery** will close at the end of the year. The Liberty Street shop, which was a combination retail store, wine-tasting bar, and art gallery, was successful at converting tasters into buyers, according to manager Ralph Beuhler—there just weren't enough of them. "We didn't have anywhere near as much walk-in traffic as we

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# MARKETPLACE CHANGES continued

expected," he says. "We figured out after a while that most of the Liberty traffic goes up toward State Street, and not back down this way."

The art gallery side of the business was something fun, and never intended to be a moneymaker—which it wasn't. Beuhler says that in the last four shows the gallery mounted, it sold one work of art.

Tabor Hill Winery is based in Buchanan, Michigan, and has three similar stores that remain open for business: in Saugatuck, in Bridgman, and at the winery itself.

~\*~\*~

When Kurt Ringquist opened golf shop **Mashie & Niblick** last year, he was hoping to attract casual and neophyte golfers, a market segment being virtually ignored by many big golf equipment dealers and pro shops. That strategy worked for the first season, but this spring and summer, when the golf industry as a whole hit a bit of a slump, Ringquist saw his foot traffic dwindle to the hard-core enthusiasts—and there weren't enough of them, he says, to pay the bills. This fall he closed up shop and took a job at the Howard Cooper car dealership. "I had a lot of fun, I learned a lot, and I met a lot of great people," he says of his brief foray into entrepreneurship. "I'm glad that I did it."

~\*~\*~

**Einstein Bros. Bagels** reached the end of its ten-year lease on State Street this fall, and its parent company, New World Restaurant Group, chose not to renew. New World, which owns three other bagel companies and a coffee chain, has been closing underperforming Einstein Bros. Bagels stores across the country.

~\*~\*~

**Thornton's Coney Island**, on Maple Road near Liberty, was open for less than six months, but in that short time, the eatery developed enough of a local following that two different readers wrote in to lament its early-fall demise. One of them noted that the business had apparently been struggling for a while before it closed; in its last few weeks, the restaurant had begun running out of several menu staples.

## Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the *Changes* column reported fourteen retail and restaurant openings. Only five of those businesses are still open, including **Aldo Shoes**, **Abercrombie & Fitch**, **Bath & Body Works**, and the **WTVS Store of Knowledge**, all at Briarwood. There's still a drugstore at Carpenter Plaza, which qualifies the location as a survivor, but over the last decade, it's gone from being a locally owned **Mindell's Pharmacy** to a regional-

ly owned **Arbor Drugs** to a nationally owned **CVS**.

Several other Briarwood stores didn't fare as well. **Roncari Fine Jewelers**, the **Coffee Beanery**, and **Nordic Track** are long gone; **Kelly's Cafe and Bakery** and **The Perfect Pretzel**, whose openings we anticipated in December 1995, never actually opened at all. The other casualties are used-clothing boutique **Rags from the Attic**, Kerrytown stationer **Regrets Only**, **Einstein Bros. Bagels** on State Street (see *Closings*, above), and **Y&S Sandwich and Yogurt** in the Michigan Union. Y&S founders Mike and Stacey Marsh, who at one time owned several area sandwich shops, have exited the restaurant business and are now concentrating on wholesale distribution of their Saline-based Flatout brand flat bread to supermarkets, fast food chains, and airlines.

**December 1995 survival rate: 36 percent**

~\*~\*~

Five years ago this month, we told you about eight new businesses. Four of them are still open, including **Motte & Bailey, Booksellers**, on East Ann; **Porter's Premium Popcorn** in Nickels Arcade; and **Old Navy** at Arborland. **Carpet World & Floors**, on Washtenaw, has since become **Carpet Center & Floors** under different ownership; according to our guidelines, it qualifies as a survivor.

Macrobiotic eatery **Sunflower Cafe**, on Washington Street, has since been replaced by **Shalimar; Cafe 303 . . . One Flight Down**, which replaced **Sweet Lorraine's** near Kerrytown, has itself been replaced by **Pelagos Mediterranean Grill**. Also gone: Nickels statuary boutique **Ancient Treasure**, and pasta shop **Demeter** in the Plymouth Green Shopping Center.

**December 2000 survival rate: 50 percent**

~\*~\*~

One year ago this month, *Marketplace Changes* featured seven new businesses. One of them has since closed: **Curry Bites**, a short-lived Indian eatery that replaced **Sabor Latino Taqueria**. In early November, the State Street space was still for rent.

Six businesses are celebrating their first anniversaries. They are **Rush Street and 800 North**, Mike Hanna's Windy City-inspired restaurant and bar on Main Street; Packard Street sandwich and ice cream shop **Paula's Place**; **Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar** on State Street; a **Wireless Toyz** location at South Main and Stadium; the Carpenter Road **Discount Tire**; and the **KFC / Long John Silver's** cobranded restaurant on Stadium.

**December 2004 survival rate: 86 percent**

—Laura McReynolds

~\*~\*~

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send e-mail to [lauramcreynolds@tds.net](mailto:lauramcreynolds@tds.net) or leave voice mail at 769-3175, extension 364.

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# The Zingerman's Times

Vol. 9 no. 12

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Printed in Ann Arbor

Land of a thousand flavors

## Shop at the Creamery

Zingerman's Creamery Shop is open and sells cheese and gelato, traditionally made right here in Ann Arbor. Stop by for hand-ladled cream cheese; the soon-to-be-famous American Cheese Society Ribbon Winner Little Napoleon goat's cheese; pumpkin and peppermint gelati; cheese-basket gifts and more! The shop's open at 3723 Plaza Drive, a scone's throw from Zingerman's Bakehouse.

## Roadhouse Celebrates New Year's Eve

Party like it's 1877! Roadhouse Chef Alex is creating a special New Year's Celebration, with a six-course meal featuring a menu from the classic 1877 American cookbook *Buckeye Cookery*. And Roadhouse wine expert, Ric Jewell has sought out wines from vineyards that survived prohibition. He is excited to share them at this celebration! \$65 for dinner/\$100 with wine pairings. Save your seats, 734.663.FOOD. 2501 Jackson Rd.

## Zingerman's in Midwest Living

December's issue of *Midwest Living* features a seven-page spread all about Zingerman's. The piece starts, "With their eyes on corned beef on rye, Paul Saginaw and Ari Weinzwieg created a group of food businesses under the Zingerman's name that bring hungry heartlanders and mouthwatering notoriety to this Michigan college town." Check out a copy today and learn more about hometown flavors.

<b>Zingerman's Roadhouse</b>	2501 Jackson Rd. 663.FOOD
<b>Zingerman's Roadshow</b>	2501 Jackson Rd. 929.0332
<b>Zingerman's DELICATESSEN</b>	422 Detroit St. 663.DELI
<b>Zingerman's Catering and Events</b>	422 Detroit St. 663.3400
<b>Zingerman's BAKEHOUSE</b>	3711 Plaza Dr. 761.2095
<b>Zingerman's mail order</b>	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
<b>Zing TRAIN</b>	PO Box 1837 930.1919
<b>Zingerman's Creamery</b>	3723 Plaza Dr. 929.0500
<b>Zingerman's COFFEE COMPANY</b>	422 Detroit St. 929.6060

www.Zingermans.com

## mail order gifts are the stuff flavor dreams are made of

Zingerman's Mail Order is under intense investigation for allegedly shipping stunningly unique and outrageously flavorful food gifts to homes nationwide.

Inside sources have revealed the top three food lover's picks for the holidays. At the top of the list, Zingerman's new Bacon of the Month club is predicted to take the nation by storm. The club is a culinary tour de bacon. Every month a new bacon arrives by post, ready to take the gift recipient on a sizzling flavor voyage. One month it's Arkansas peppered bacon, the next Hungarian double smoked bacon, the next Irish back bacon. Bacon-phile, Brad Hedeman, confessed recently that "the club has given me the chance to spread my crispy wings and really start living."

Another Mail Order gift that's sure to create a blissful buzz across the con-



Visions of full-flavored and traditionally crafted gifts from Zingerman's Mail Order danced in their heads.

tinient is the Sweet Yellow Brazilian Coffee from Zingerman's Coffee Company. The coffee is Rainforest Alliance Certified and made from a series of very special varietals that the folks at Daterra estate in Brazil have spent years cultivating. The brewed cup is amazingly sweet, nutty and super smooth, buttery, with lots of happy high notes.

Insiders spilled the beans about the third stunning gift available

exclusively by Zingerman's Mail Order: a ginormous 12-pound version of the legendary Zingerman's Bakehouse Sour cream Coffeecake. Office productivity has been measured to quadruple when the team's fueled with one of these cakes, made with real butter, Indonesian cinnamon and toasted walnuts.

Rumor has it that it's easy to send stunning food gifts by mail. Call 888.636.8162 or log onto zingermans.com.



## private tastings wow flavor lovers

The *Times* has discovered that Zingerman's Deli offers customized tastings of the finest food treasures from near and far. Experts speculate that a private tasting might be the most beloved and unique gift this holiday season.

Zingerman's private tasting expeditions are led by exuberant experts who are rumored to fulfill every tasting fancy. Zingerman's customizes tastings of their favorite traditionally-crafted, full-flavored foods from all over the globe.

The gift's been pleasing a variety of folks. Sweethearts have been smitten by private chocolate tastings by Zingerman's resident chocolate expert, Emily Duffelmeyer Anderson. Border's Books recently treated their staff to a custom tasting. They reported, "we were absolutely delighted with our tasting. We are all so thankful for the delicious getaway!"

Word on the street is that private tastings can be arranged by calling 734.663.3400. Slots are limited, so don't delay!



## zingerman's coffee company in travel and Leisure magazine

Francine Maroukian, food author, recently set out to get the buzz about the country's best craft roasters. She chose Zingerman's Coffee Company as one of four in her article in *Travel and Leisure*, "Coffee Nation". She was especially spellbound by the Roadshow coffee trailer outside of Zingerman's Roadhouse, and she swooned over the combination of a cup of special blend Roadhouse Joe and fresh housemade donuts. The Roadshow is located at the corner of Jackson and Maple in Ann Arbor. Bring this ad to the Roadshow (before 11am) for a free hot donut.

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special bake all month!  
bakehouse favorite cranberry pecan bread, \$9.95/loaf

## buy Local...Locally made panettone and stollen

The Bakehouse has begun making Panettone, traditional Italian holiday bread, and Stollen, old-fashioned German holiday bread. And it's said these special holiday breads are fresher and more flavorful than those usually found around the holidays, which can have more miles on them than a frequent flyer card. Stop by the Bakehouse, Deli, or Roadshow and ask for a taste.

## Zingerman's revolutionary roadhouse winter menu debuts

Street sleuths say that the new Roadhouse menu has arrived, and according to these same sources, it's changing the way people eat. Police were on site within moments of receiving word that a large mob of flavor fanatics were storming the restaurant in the middle of the night, demanding the new Pimento Cheeseburger. "The Pimento Cheeseburger was Elvis' favorite!" one foodie cried. "If I don't taste it now, I'm gonna have to check into heartbreak hotel!"

Stop by the Roadhouse to check out the all new dinner and lunch menus, with new dishes like Texas Cabrito BBQ Goat, and vegetarian-friendly Really Wild Wild Rice Roast. Call 663.FOOD for reservations, or to book your holiday party.

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# December

## Handel's *Messiah*

UMS Choral Union  
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra  
Jerry Blackstone conductor  
Karina Gauvin soprano  
Bejun Mehta countertenor  
Robert Breault tenor  
Andrew Garland baritone

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 8 PM  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2 PM  
Hill Auditorium

UMS's annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah* is the sacred sign of the season for the Ann Arbor community. This community collaboration between the UMS Choral Union, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, and Jerry Blackstone is a true coming-together of all that is best about going to hear *Messiah*. Don't miss the original Michigan *Messiah* in the opulent, refurbished Hill Auditorium, complete with a 220-member chorus, orchestra, and star soloists.

Supported by the Carl and Isabelle Brauer Fund.

## Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Robert Spano conductor  
Marcus Roberts Trio  
Marcus Roberts piano  
Roland Guerin bass  
Jason Marsalis drums

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 8 PM  
Hill Auditorium

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra returns for the first time since 1997 with the dazzling jazz pianist Marcus Roberts for an evening of music that includes two audience favorites — a unique arrangement of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and the Symphonic Dances from Leonard Bernstein's popular musical *West Side Story*.

PROGRAM  
Vaughan Williams Symphony No. 2 ("London") (1913)  
Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue* (1923)  
Bernstein Symphonic Dances from  
*West Side Story* (1960)

A Prelude Dinner precedes this performance.  
For information or reservations, please call the UMS Development Office at 734.764.8489.

Sponsored by DTE Energy Foundation

Supported by the Catherine S. Arcure and Herbert E. Sloan Endowment Fund.

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WEMU 89.1

## Christmas Time is Here

### Dianne Reeves

Dianne Reeves vocals  
Peter Martin piano  
Romero Lubambo guitar  
Rueben Rogers bass  
Herlin Riley drums

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 8 PM  
Hill Auditorium

Dianne Reeves returns to UMS following her inspired appearance in the Jazz Divas Summit during the Hill Auditorium Re-Opening Weekend to ring in the holiday season with style and pizzazz. Her 2004 recording, *Christmas Time is Here*, was released to outstanding reviews, including the noted jazz critic Ben Ratliff, who called it "one of the best jazz Christmas CDs I've heard." (*The New York Times*)

Media Partners WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, and Michigan Chronicle/Front Page.

## FREE RELATED EVENT

### Dianne Reeves: Post-Performance Meet and Greet

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10  
Hill Auditorium Lower Lobby

Dianne Reeves will be available to meet with audience members and sign autographs following the performance.

## UMS Tickets Make Great Holiday Gifts!

Looking for that perfect, meaningful gift that speaks volumes about your taste? Tired of giving flowers, ties or jewelry? Give a UMS Gift Certificate! Available in any amount and redeemable for more than 70 events throughout our season, wrapped and delivered with your personal message, the UMS Gift Certificate is the perfect holiday gift for family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

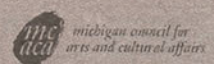
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# DECEMBER EVENTS

## We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

**By mail:** John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

**By fax:** 769-3375 or 769-4950.

**By e-mail:** hinch@aaobserver.com

**After-hours drop box:** right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

## What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

## Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

## arborweb:

The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com**. This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

★ Denotes no admission charge.

## WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

[www.arborweb.com](http://www.arborweb.com)

## 1 THURSDAY

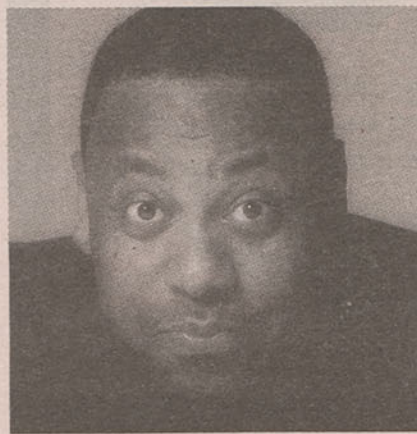
**59th Annual Greens Market: Ann Arbor Branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.** Sale of wreaths, ropes, rings, bundles, bunches, bouquets, swags, sprays, sprigs, sprouts, twigs, twirls, garlands, festoons, cascades, and other festive, traditional, and contemporary permutations of holiday greens. Also, handmade gifts and crafts, a white elephant sale, and a sale of antiques "from the very best attics." Raffle. All proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 769-1231.

★**"Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Thursday through December 15. Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. Note: Play days are also offered at the Northeast Branch (10-11 a.m.) on Wednesdays through December 14 and at the West (10-11 a.m.) and Malletts Creek (6:30-7:30 p.m.) branches Thursdays through December 15. 10-11 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (branches).

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** Every Thursday. A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with "Fitness Fun," a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m. (1 p.m. on December 29), an educational or cultural presentation. Today: Mobile Eye occupational therapist Cheryl Terpening Frueh and Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled technical coordinator Sonia Matthews discuss "Doing More with Less." Also this month: members of the JCC StoryCorps Project interview participants about their life stories (December 8), an intergenerational Hanukkah program with songs and stories (December 15), a discussion of current and future JCC senior programming (December 22), and a celebration of Hanukkah and of the lives of group members 90



Maria Bamford, Dec. 15-17



Keith Ruff, Dec. 29 & 30

## GALLERIES

### 87 EXHIBIT OPENINGS

Laura Bien

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Dan Moray

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James Leonard

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Southern-fried dinner party from hell

Sally Mitani

### 99 BRANDON WIARD

The road to genius

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### 103 THE TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEELBAND

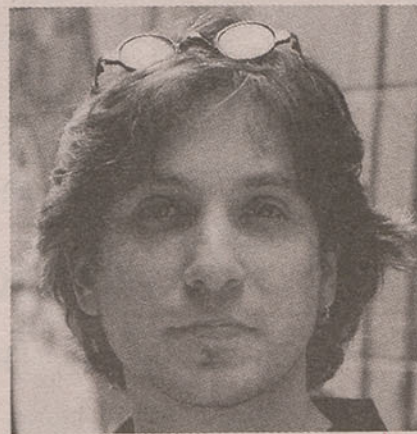
Caribbean reinvention

James M. Manheim

### 128 EVENTS AT A GLANCE



Dianne Reeves, Dec. 10



Gabe Bolkosky, Dec. 4

& older (December 29), with refreshments and music by internationally renowned Oak Park singer-pianist Avy Schreiber. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors). Also, at 1 p.m. (11 a.m. on December 29) a **Current Events** discussion group and at 2:15 p.m. (except December 15) a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group**, a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. December 15 is a meeting of the Play Reading Group (see listing). 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** Every Thursday. Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 2-5. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**Factory Tours: Motawi Tileworks.** Every Thursday. A Motawi artist leads a guided tour of every stage of tile making. Attendees can watch artists at work and see Motawi's new 12" tile and its big mural under construction. Afterward, a chance to sift through and purchase tiles from the overrun area. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m., Motawi, 170 Enterprise Dr. (north off Jackson Rd. between Staebler & Baker). Free. 213-0017.

**ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Thursday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. Noon-4 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$4 (nonresidents, \$5). 769-5911.

★**"HIV, Poverty, and Homelessness": Black Medical Students Association.** Talk by Rob Fetzer, the executive director of Wellness House, a Detroit-based housing project and food bank for homeless people with HIV/AIDS. Noon-1 p.m., West Lecture Hall, Medical Sciences II, 1301 Catherine. Free. 763-9534.

★**"Shohei Imamura and Eco-Film Criticism": U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** Talk by University of Minnesota Japanese literature professor Christine Marran. Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6307.

★**Adania Shibli: U-M Women's Studies Department "Middle East Women Speak Out Series."** Talk by this award-winning Palestinian writer who reads from her work at the Ann Arbor District Library on December 2 (see listing). Noon, 2239 Lane Hall. Free. 763-2047.

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** December 1, 8, 15, 18, & 22. Performances by area and guest artists. Today: performances by U-M music students. Also this month: Joel Beam leads the **Voices of Healing** chorus and Brian Altevogt leads the Concordia University's **Arborsong** in holiday choral music (December 8), **MannaFest** plays pop and folk (December 15), the **Arbor Consort** performs madrigals (December 18), and the ensemble **Counterpoint** performs seasonal favorites (December 22). 12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital courtyard, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

★**"The Great Lakes and Human Health Seminar Series": National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/U-M.** December 1, 8, & 15 (different locations). Part of a series of 7 presentations that runs into January. Today: NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab research scientist David Schwab discusses "Lake Currents and Human Health Issues in the Great Lakes: Is There a Connection?" Also this month: CMU biology professor Elizabeth Alm on "Genetic Pollution and Beach Bacterial Contamination" (December 8), and NOAA/GLERL research scientist Paul Liu on "Buddha's Palm: A Personal View of the State of Wind Wave Studies and Modeling" (December 15). Refreshments. 12:15-1:15 p.m. (Dec. 1), 1608 IOE, 1205 Beal, North Campus, & 10:30-11:30 a.m. (Dec 8 & 15), Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, 2203 Commonwealth (off Plymouth Rd. just west of Green Rd.). Free. 741-2147.

★**"Judo, Jujitsu, & Self-Defense": A.C.E. Academy of Martial Arts.** Every Monday through Thursday. Local sensei Dan Powers offers a fun, easy introduction to these martial arts and self-defense skills. Wear a gi (simple white robe) or loose-fitting or gym clothes. 4 p.m. (kids) & 6 p.m. (adults), A.C.E. Academy of Martial Arts, 749 Airport Blvd., suite 3. Free. 645-7069.

★**"The Double Challenge of Globalization and Regionalization: The Greek Case": U-M Center for European Studies "Conversations on Europe."** Talk by University of Athens applied physics professor Costas Caltalis, the former general secretary for Olympic Games in the Greece Ministry of Culture. 4



# Greg Sobran



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## I'm Dreaming of a White House Christmas



A Holiday Exhibit

November 21, 2005  
- January 6, 2006

### OPENING EVENT

Maria Downs

Mrs. Ford's Social Secretary

Friday, December 2, 2005 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Call for reservations  
(734) 205-0540

Free Admission and Parking

Monday through Friday  
8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.



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## 1 THURSDAY continued

p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

★"Science and Spirituality: Searching for Common Ground": U-M Program in Creativity and Consciousness Studies. A panel discussion examining the relationship between science and spirituality. Speakers include U-M environmental ethics lecturer Rolf Bouma, U-M physical medicine and rehabilitation professor Jeffrey Evans, U-M epidemiology professor Sharon Kardia, and U-M Life Sciences and Society senior research associate Susan King. Moderator is U-M psychology professor emeritus Richard Mann. 4 p.m., U-M Alumni Center, 200 Fletcher. Free. 763-1321.

★Mark Doty: 17th Annual Day Without Art (U-M Museum of Art). Reading by this award-winning Massachusetts- and Texas-based poet whose lyrical, quietly sparkling meditative poems examine such everyday items as weightlifting, an empty crab shell, and a beautiful, semisurreal New York street scene. Also, in recognition of World AIDS Day, the museum drapes a number of works in black mourning cloth to acknowledge the wealth of creativity lost because of the severe impact of AIDS on the international arts community. 5 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-0395.

★Byron Kim: U-M School of Art Penny Stamps Lecture Series. Talk by this artist whose recent abstract paintings feature large blocks of uniform color that refer to landmarks, homes, and other images from his childhood. 5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 764-0397.

★"What Makes You So Sure You're Not the Evil One Yourself?": U-M English Department. The award-winning essayist and novelist Jonathan Franzen, best known for his novel *The Corrections*, discusses global warming, the end of his marriage, his sense of general culpability, and his recent *New Yorker* article about his passion for birding. 5 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 615-3710.

★Ann Arbor FrontRunners. Every Tuesday & Thursday. Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3-5 miles to run with FrontRunners members. 6:30 p.m., meet at Furstenberg Park, off Fuller Rd. across from Huron High School. Free. 741-1763.

★"British Cheese Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's cheese expert Jess Piskor discusses and offers taste samples of the farmhouse cheeses Zingerman's sells from Neal's Yard Dairy (London). 7-9 p.m., Zingerman's, 422 Detroit St. \$20. Reservations required. 663-3400.

★"CAM 212: Mood": Whole Foods Market. December 1, 8, & 15. Talk by local holistic health care practitioner Malcolm Sickels, who also gives this talk at 7 p.m. at Crazy Wisdom (December 8) and Whole Foods (December 15). 7 p.m., 210 Little Lake Dr., suite 10 (off Parkland Dr. from eastbound Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★"Gemstones of America": Huron Hills Lapidary Society. Screening of this video about native gemstones. Also, a group show-and-tell; bring your minerals. 7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 434-8517.

★"Betye Saar: Extending the Frozen Moment": U-M Museum of Art. Docent-guided tour of the current UMMA exhibit of works by this contemporary artist whose mixed media assemblages exploring racism incorporate items such as washboards and Aunt Jemima images. 7 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

ACBL Bridge: Women's City Club. Every Sunday & Thursday. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. 7 p.m. (Thurs.) & 1:30 p.m. (Sun.), Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$5. 973-7770 (Sun.), 761-6691 (Thurs.).

★Washtenaw Toastmasters. Every Thursday. Members develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a supportive environment. Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). 7-9 p.m., 4205 Washtenaw. Free to visitors. Dues: \$52 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 572-9978.

★"Circles of Prophecy": Crystal Clear Expressions. Psychic Nanci Rose Gerler channels empowering spiritual messages from various masters, guides, and angels. 7-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore meeting room, 114 S. Main. \$20. Reservations requested. 996-8799.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday. Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). \$4. 769-4324, 426-0241.

## First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor



Sunday Worship:  
9:30 & 11 am

120 S. State St. at Huron  
Visitor parking at rear of church  
Free parking Sundays at  
Liberty Sq. Garage

Radio broadcast of previous  
week's service:  
8 am Sunday, 1050 AM

Saturday Contemporary  
Worship: 5 pm

1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way

734.662.4536  
[www.fumc-a2.org](http://www.fumc-a2.org)

Celebrate Advent at First Church!

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Chancel Choir Cantata Vivaldi's "Gloria"  
Downtown services, 9:30 & 11 am

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

"Baa Baa Bethlehem" Drama  
Youth Mission Benefit, Downtown 6:30 pm

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Downtown Christmas Eve Services  
5 pm Children's Service  
7 pm Family Service  
9 pm Communion Service  
11 pm Candlelight Service

\$2 parking at Liberty Sq. Garage  
before 6 pm; free after 6 pm

Green Wood Christmas Eve Service  
5 pm Candlelight Family Service

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

Downtown Worship Service 11 am only

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Downtown Worship Service 11 am only

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**★Jazz Guitar Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Steven Curry directs this music-student ensemble. 7:30 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

**★Annual Winter Sing: Pioneer High School.** Kenneth Westerman leads all 9 of the school's vocal groups in an eclectic program that includes a medley of TV show theme songs, sea chanteys, winter songs, spirituals, the annual favorite "Wintertime Aglow," and more. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994-2120.

**★Student Composers' Forum Recital: U-M School of Music.** U-M music students perform their compositions. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

**★Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** December 1 & 15. Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try 15th- and 16th-century English country dances, Italian dances, bransles, pavaues, almans, and more. Instruction provided. No partner needed. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. 8-11 p.m., Michigan League room D. Free. 971-1809.

**★Ann Arbor Ski Club.** December 1 & 15. All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. This month's discussion topics TBA. The December 15 meeting is followed by a holiday party and dance. Must be 21 or older. 8-11 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. Free. 761-3419.

**Local Music Showcase: Dreamland Theater.** Double bill featuring Actual Birds, who perform acoustic folk-punk with a raw dark edge, and Charlie Slick, who combines synth pop, prerecorded backing tracks, wild dance moves, and strobe lights, along with a bubble machine for good measure. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Donation. 657-2337.

**★"Opera in America": EMU Music Department Opera Workshop.** Donald Hartmann directs EMU opera students in scenes from Sousa's *El Capitan*, Virgil Thomson's *The Mother of Us All*, and Copland's *The Tender Land*. Piano accompanist is Jikyung Kam. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

**Lee Murdock: The Ark.** Murdock is a Great Lakes troubadour who writes songs about the lives of sailors and fishermen, lighthouse keepers, ghosts, outlaws, and everyday heroes. His music blends ragtime, Irish, blues, and folk styles, and he accompanies himself on 6- and 12-string guitars. Tonight he performs his "Christmas Ship Concert," a family concert commemorating a turn-of-the-19th-century tradition. At the end of the lumber season, Great Lakes captains would carry a final cargo heralding the holiday season with a deck piled high with fresh-cut evergreen trees and garlands. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**"The Great American Egg Nog Festival": Black-Bag Productions.** December 1-3 & 8-10. Ahmed Muslimani directs 2 barbed comedies about the horrors of the holidays. Will Myers stars in *The Santaland Diaries*, David Sedaris's monologue about his ill-fated stint as a jaundiced, snippy elf for a department store Santa. Local playwrights Callie McKee and Aral Basil Gribble II's *Jesus Cake*, *Fat-Pants*, and *The Theory of Relativity* is a montage of monologues, music, and mayhem, set on the day before Thanksgiving, about families, the holidays, and the mystery of how we turn out the way we do. Cast: Aral Gribble, Laurel Hufano, Callie McKee, and Chuck Ganchore. 8 p.m., Blackbird Theater, 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). Tickets \$18 (seniors \$12, students \$7, Thursdays \$5) in advance and at the door. 332-3848.

**"The Glass Menagerie": Purple Rose Theater Company.** Every Wednesday-Sunday through December 17. See review, p. 97. Michelle DiDomenico directs local actors in Tennessee Williams's poetic psychological melodrama about a faded southern belle with illusions of past greatness whose ambitions and pretensions drive her 2 children to the edge of sanity. The story is set out as a reminiscence by her unhappy, rebellious son. Her physically handicapped daughter has retreated into a dream world supported by her collection of delicate glass animals. The family's fantasy lives are challenged when, at the mother's insistence, the brother invites a "gentleman caller" to dinner. Cast: Ryan Carlson, Michelle Mountain, Molly Thomas, and Tom Whalen. 8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. \$25 (Wed. & Thurs.), \$30 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & \$35 (Fri. & Sat. evens.) in advance and at the door. 433-ROSE.

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol": Performance Network Professional Season.** Every Thursday (except November 24) through Sunday, November

10-December 24. Tony Caselli directs the Michigan premiere of Tom Mula's hilarious comedy about Ebenezer Scrooge's sour old business partner, who is given a chance to redeem himself by returning from hell (accompanied by a mischievous celestial imp) for 24 hours to transform Scrooge's miserly heart. The play ran 2 years at Chicago's Goodman Theater, where it won several awards, and it has since been a hit in regional theaters around the country. Cast: Paul Hopper, John Seibert, Darrell Glasgow, and Tobin Hissong. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$24.50 (Thurs. & Sun.), \$29.50 (Fri.), and \$32.50 (Sat.) available in advance at [performancenetwork.org](http://performancenetwork.org) & by phone, and at the door. Discounts available for seniors. Half-price student rush tickets available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call 663-0696.

**Ben Creed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** December 1-3. New York City monologist known for his high-energy, dynamic performing style and his quick-witted, wise-guy perspectives on a variety of topics. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 (Thurs.) & \$8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

#### FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation.** "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). December 1-15. Jane Austen's classic novel about an independent-minded woman. Keira Knightley, Donald Sutherland, Matthew MacFadyen. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **Projectorhead.** "Matewan" (John Sayles, 1987). Beautifully filmed story about a West Virginia union organizer who tries to keep a coal miners' strike peaceful, but the uneasy mix of mine owner's thugs, scabs, and unrest among the workers leads to disaster. FREE. 615-0445. Modern Languages II (812 E. Washington). 7 p.m.

#### 2 FRIDAY

**★"Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Friday. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 34-45 miles, to either Dexter or the Waterloo Recreation Area. 9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 851-8323 & (517) 285-6830 (today's ride), 994-0044 (general information).

**"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department).** A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1-3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. 9:30-11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$6. 997-1553.

**Trunk Show: Heavenly Metal.** Show and sale of purses, jewelry, iPod and cell phone cases, holiday ball lights, and bath and body products. 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Heavenly Metal (inside Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts), 207 E. Ann. Free admission. 663-4247.

**★23rd Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** December 2-5. One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit includes creches (Nativity scenes) from 104 countries around the world, many of them new this year. The exhibit includes many of the creches bequeathed to the exhibit by Catherine Carroll, the well-known local pediatrician who died in 1997. One highlight of Carroll's collection is an 18th-century *presepio* (Baroque creche) in the tradition that was popular with the Neapolitan royalty and church. It features 10 wood-and-porcelain figures clothed in lavish miniature costumes. Overall, the exhibit includes almost 900 creches collected or made by women of the church. The majority of creches are displayed in a large hall with a 15-foot Christmas tree decorated with lights and hand-made Nativity balls. There are also 7 "walk-in" rooms, 5 of them devoted to Latin American, African, Eastern European, Asian, and American creches, as well as a room of spinning light-mill Nativities and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. One of the most striking displays is a large French Santon village featuring over 100 Santons (mini-saints) carrying gifts to the manger. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, corn husks, leather, and metals, and styles range from simple childlike figures to elegant original designs. Five "look-in" rooms hold the breakable Lladro, Lennox, and Hummel creches, as well as one from Singapore and a stage with 7 large Nativity marionettes from the Czech Republic. The creches range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to an African Nativity portraying Joseph as a 25½" tall Masai warrior. Also, at 7:30 p.m. tonight only, a Christmas concert features a men's vocal quartet, clarinet soloist Malissa Evans, and the trumpet duo of Ashley Swenson and Boyd Lichtenberg. 10 a.m.-9

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Saturday  
December 10 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm

Sunday  
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Artistic Director Wendi DuBois  
Chelsea High School Auditorium  
740 North Freer Road

Tickets: \$15/adults \$8/seniors and children  
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the Dancer's Boutique or at the door.  
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[www.youthdancetheatre.org](http://www.youthdancetheatre.org)





# December 2005 EVENTS

## Ann Arbor District Library



- Friday Dec 2** **Middle Eastern Women Speak Out:** Discussion with author/playwright **Adania Shibli** • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room  
7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Saturday Dec 3** **Concert:** Handbell music by **Classical Bells**  
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room  
2:00 - 3:00 pm
- Saturday Dec 3** **Marble Magnet Madness** • Create your own magnets  
Grades 6-12 • Northeast Branch  
2:00 - 4:00 pm
- Sunday Dec 4** **Family Cultural Celebration: An Afternoon of Russian Folk Arts** • For all ages • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room  
2:00 - 3:30 pm
- Sunday Dec 4** **Writing Fantasy** with author **Sarah Zettel** • Grades 6-12  
Malletts Creek Branch  
2:00 - 3:30 pm
- Monday Dec 5** **Traveling Through Time:** A guide to Michigan's historical markers & nominating a site • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room  
7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Tuesday Dec 6** **Stupas, Statues and Frescoes: The Art of Ancient Sri Lanka** with Fulbright Scholar **Dr. SinhaRaja Tammita-Delgoda**  
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room  
7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Friday Dec 9** **Award-winning Documentary of Buenos Aires Factory Life: The Take** • Not Rated • Northeast Branch  
7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Saturday Dec 10** **Friends of the Library Annual Holiday Bookshop**  
Downtown Library Friends Bookshop  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Tuesday Dec 13** **Cover to Cover Book Discussion: American Pastoral** by Philip Roth • Malletts Creek Branch  
7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Wednesday Dec 14** **Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage: What Does it Mean for You?** • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room  
9:30 - 11:00 am
- Thursday Dec 15** **Cheap Tricks, Channing and Coca-Cola** • Backstage with Director/Actor/Playwright **John Neville-Andrews**  
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room  
7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Saturday Dec 17** **AADL-GT Grand Championship! Mario Kart & Super Smash Brothers Tournament Series** • Grades 6-12  
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room  
noon - 5:00 pm
- Sunday Dec 18** **Kids! Read to a Live Dog from Therapaws** • Readers Grades K-5  
Registration required @ 327-8301  
Northeast Branch & Downtown Library 3rd Floor aadlfreespace  
2:00 - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday Dec 28** **Adventures in Reading!** • Join **Doug Scheer** on a wacky safari with games, magic and more • Age 4 & up  
Malletts Creek Branch  
10:00 - 11:00 am & 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Thursday Dec 29** **Dance Dance Revolution Family Tournaments**  
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room • Grades 6-12  
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room • Bring the whole family!  
1:00 - 4:00 pm & 6:00 - 9:00 pm

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at [aadl.org](http://aadl.org)

2 FRIDAY continued

p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665-7852, 663-3699.

★**Friday Storytime: Arborland Borders.** Every Friday. A Borders staffer reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Rosa Parks's *I Am Rosa Parks* and Nikki Giovanni's *Rosa*. Also this month: Jean de Brunhoff's *The Story of Babar* and *Babar's Book of Colors* (December 9), Barbara Nichol's *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* and Daniel Pinkwater's *Rainy Morning* (December 16), Will Joyce's *Snow Rollie* and Caralyn Buehner's *Snowmen at Night* (December 23), and Leo Lionni's *The Alphabet Tree* and Dr. Seuss's *The Butter Battle Book* (December 30). 11 a.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449-9394.

**Gem and Jewelry Show: GemStreet USA.** December 2-4. Show and sale of gems, minerals, jewelry, beads, and fossils. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (Dec. 2.), 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 3), & 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 4), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$6 (seniors & students 12-17, \$4; children 11 & under, free). (216) 521-4367.

★**"Unexpected Entrepreneurs: Bolcom and Morris on a Life in Music": IT Zone Creativity Forum.** Jan Nichols of Market Arts hosts a conversation with mezzo-soprano Joan Morris and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer-pianist William Bolcom, the award-winning local husband-and-wife duo who specialize in 19th- and early-20th-century American song. Noon-1:15 p.m., IT Zone, 330 E. Liberty. \$5 (members, free). Preregistration requested at [annarboritzone.org](http://annarboritzone.org). 615-9310.

★**Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Friday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. 1-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

**Craft Show and Bake Sale: Saline Senior Center.** Show and sale of items made by local crafters. Hot dogs, chili, soup, sloppy joes, baked goods, and beverages available. 4 p.m.-10 p.m., 7190 N. Maple (old high school), Saline. Free admission. 429-9274.

★**"Nostalgia and/or Modernity: From New Guinea to Appalachia via 9/11": U-M School of Music Ethel V. Curry Distinguished Lecture in Musicology.** University of New Mexico music professor Steven Feld discusses his work on the anthropology of sound and voice. 5 p.m., Rackham Assembly Hall. Free. 764-0594.

**Saline Community Education Craft Show.** Juried show of works by more than 135 crafters from around the Midwest. Also, gingerbread house display, gingerbread cookie decorating (6-10 p.m.), a cookie walk, and screenings of Jon Favreau's 2003 family film *Elf* (6 & 10 p.m.), about a man raised as an elf by Santa. Child care available for ages 6 months-8 years (6-9 p.m.). Concessions. 6 p.m.-midnight, old Saline High School, 7190 N. Maple, Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. \$2. 429-8020.

★**"Midnight Madness": Kerrytown Shops/Main Street Area Association/State Street Area Association.** Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. In Kerrytown: a concert of Christmas music performed on Kerrytown's bells (7 p.m.), and in the Farmers' Market, the Artisan Market is open. On Main Street: see "Festive Friday" listing below. Also, bicyclists may drop off their bike for valet parking and a quick checkup at Main and William. On State Street: strolling Santa and carolers. 6 p.m.-midnight, Kerrytown Shops and Main Street & State Street shopping areas. Free admission. 662-5008.

★**17th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** December 2-4. This popular community celebration, formerly known as the Festival of Lights, features carolers throughout the downtown, hayrides, and a variety of family activities and gingerbread house displays in downtown shop windows. Tonight's special events begin with a tree lighting (6 p.m., Pierce Park). Santa opens his workshop, where children can participate in crafts while waiting to share their Christmas wishes (7-8:30 p.m., UAW Hall). Also, a living Nativity complete with live animals (7-8:30 p.m., Cole Funeral Home, corner of East and Middle). 6-9 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. 475-1145.

★**Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA.** December 2 & 16. Kids 2-10 can enjoy dinner, games and sports, and (age 5 & older only) a dip in the pool. 6:15-10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. \$20 (members, \$15). Preregistration required. 661-8012.

**Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing).** All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7-9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 996-1332.

★**Adania Shibli: Ann Arbor District Library.** This acclaimed young Palestinian fiction writer and playwright reads from her short fiction. Q&A. 7-8:30

Rising songw the Ar

p.m., AF Fifth Av

★**Craig** the Com new coo signing. Free. 66

★**Mark** partme ative w prose by tner. 7/ 615-371

★**"In I** Small T review, p work is local po and rura

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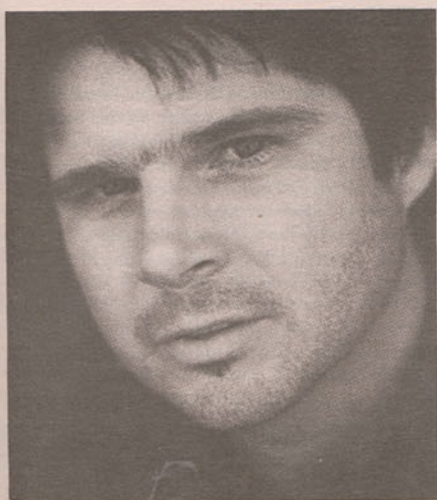
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**Rising star country-rock singer-songwriter Chris Knight performs at the Ark Dec. 11.**

p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

**\*Craig Common: Nicola's Books.** The owner of the Common Grill restaurant in Chelsea discusses his new cookbook, *Return to the Common Grill*. Also, signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-0600.

**\*Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** December 2 & 9. Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: prose by Peter Mayshele and poetry by Marc Bitner. 7 p.m., Michigan Union Kuenzel Room. Free. 615-3710.

**\*"In Drought Time: Scenes from Rural and Small Town Life": Washington Street Gallery.** See review, p. 79. Readings by some of the poets whose work is included in this new anthology of works by local poets and graphic artists exploring small-town and rural life. Also, display of some of the art works reproduced in the book, and video projection of pages from the book during the readings. Readers include Doug Smith, Jay Stielstra, Melody Vassoff, Greg Parker, Rosemary Caruso, Hermione Gorney, Dave Sing, Sandra Xenakis, Marijo Grogan, and Keith Taylor. Signing. Note: The poets also read their work from the book at Shaman Drum on December 8 (see listing). 7 p.m., Washington Street Gallery, 120 E. Liberty. Free. 761-2287.

**\*Caroling Party: Kempf House Museum (Ann Arbor Parks Department).** All invited to gather with Lavonne and Ron Harris at an 1877 Steinway grand piano in this historic home before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols, with accompaniment by the Salvation Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot cider, cookies, and festive music by accordionist Christian Roux. Also, a chance to tour the Kempf House and view 19th-century Christmas decorations. 7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994-4898.

**\*"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association.** Every Friday, November 25-December 23. Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling in 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Entertainment includes performances by the Nutones women's a cappella quartet (December 2), the Huron High School Choir (December 2), juggler Tim Salisbury (December 2), Flint's Antique Organ street organ grinders (December 2 & 9), the County Connection Sweet Adelines Chorus (December 2 & 16), piper Herm Steinman (December 2, 9, & 16), the Arbor Consort madrigals chorus in period costume (December 2, 9, & 16), vocalist Rick Smith (December 9), the women's a cappella quartet Harmony 4 Fun (December 9), Cerberus Jazz Quartet (December 9 & 16), and performers TBA (December 23). Kids can drop off letters to Santa at a special mailbox at 347 S. Main (next to Generations) beginning November 25, with "postage to the North Pole compliments of the MSAA." 7-9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, & Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

**"Cinderella": Ypsilanti Area Dancers.** December 2-4. Heidi Vitso leads a company of dancers ages 6-18 in Heidi Vitso, Laura McCarthy, and Roy Panahi's ballet, set to a recording of the Prokofiev score and based on the classic fairy tale about the triumph of the underdog stepdaughter. The cast for each performance includes 2 different Ypsilanti celebrities. Tonight's celebrity performers: Ypsilanti mayor Cheryl Farmer and Ypsilanti police chief George Baser. 7 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard. Tickets \$12 in advance in Ann Arbor at the Dancer's

Boutique (2414 E. Stadium Blvd.) & Randazzo Dance (4569 Washtenaw), and at the door. 429-6048.

**"Winter Wonderland": Dance Gallery Studio.** The Peter Sparling Dance Company and the Dance Gallery Studio's Youth Ensemble perform Dance Gallery artistic director Peter Sparling's vibrant *Les Parisiennes*, a work inspired by the paintings of Degas, and other ballet and modern dance works with winter-related themes. Also, holiday music by the Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. 7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Towsley Auditorium, 4800 Huron River Dr. Tickets \$10 in advance at Dance Gallery and at the door. 747-8885.

**\*Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heirloom sewing. All invited. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-7867.

**Fall Concert: 58 Greene.** This 14-member co-ed a cappella group performs a program of peppy pop covers. Also, performances by student dance groups TBA. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Union ballroom. Cost TBA. 763-1107.

**28th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University.** December 2-4. Sparkling with medieval splendor, this elegantly elaborate pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over sin and death features a cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children. Originating in medieval England and celebrated for centuries at Cambridge and Oxford, the Boar's Head Festival combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, with musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. It offers vividly dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. The peak of the festival is the presentation of a wild boar's head, a symbol of vanquished evil. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year, so get your tickets early. 7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$15 (ages 12 & under, \$8) in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office and (if available) at the door. 995-4612.


**Cyndi Lauper: Clear Channel Entertainment.** With a debut record brimming with pop gems—from "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" to "She Bop" and "Money Changes Everything"—in an array of stylistic guises, Lauper sprang onto the scene in the early 80s as the voice of good-natured, free-spirited girlish mischief. Her time in the pop limelight was brief, but she's still a great singer with an almost unerring instinct for the quick of a pop tune, and her live shows summon the kind of celebratory spirit of shared experiences that's more likely to be provided by an anonymous bar band than a pop star of whatever wattage. Opening acts are the prickly, iconoclastic singer, actress, and comedian Sandra Bernhard, and Jill Sobule, a singer-songwriter known for sharp-witted, emotionally direct songs. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$45 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS or (248) 645-6666.

**\*Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** All invited to peer through the telescope on the Angell Hall roof for celestial visions. Club members are on hand to answer questions. 8 p.m.-10 p.m., 5th-floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left). Free. 936-3626.

**"After the Deluge": Kerrytown Concert House.** Poetry readings by poets from the Neutral Zone teen center, U-M student poets from Ann Arbor Wordworks, local librarian Karrie Waarala, and 2-time Ann Arbor Grand Slam champion Jeff Kass. All proceeds benefit children who are victims of Katrina. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$5. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

**Buffalo: Dreamland Theater.** Pop duo, 8 p.m., Dreamland, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$5. 657-2337.

**Greg Trooper: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church).** Lesser known but highly regarded Nashville-based, New Jersey-bred singer-songwriter whose songs have been recorded by the likes of Steve Earle, Robert Earl Keen, Billy Bragg, and Vince Gill. His 1998 CD *Popular Dreams* is regarded as one of the defining works of the alt-country genre, and his new CD on the roots music label Sugar Hill, *Make It Through This World*, is a collection that Nashville Scene named Best Americana Album of 2005. "On his best album yet, his lyrics gain in detail and poetic feel, and are only deepened by the relaxed warmth of his vocals and simmering soul of his record's arrangements," says Nashville Scene reviewer Michael McCall. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662-4536, 665-8558.



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Boar's Head Festival



Concordia University Jazz Ensemble



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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## December 2005 Events

### Performance: 28th Annual Boar's Head Festival

Friday, Dec. 2 & Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. • Chapel of the Holy Trinity  
Tickets: Adult: \$12-15, Child 12 and under: \$8-10  
Students, faculty and staff come together to enact medieval Christmas traditions and the story of Christ's birth in this moving musical spectacle directed by Dr. Laura C. Bird with musical direction by Brian Altevogt. Beginning in 1978 through the vision of three Concordia professors - Paul Foelber, John Sturmfels and Quentin Marino - the Boar's Head Festival has become a treasured memory for many. It remains a vibrant and living tradition as it continues to profess the wonder of the Christmas miracle.

### Concert: Horizons

Thursday, Dec. 8 • 7:30 p.m. • Kref Center Black Box Theatre  
Pre-concert lecture at 6:30 p.m.  
Tickets: \$15 (Seniors: \$12, Students: \$9, Children 12 and under: \$7)  
The Grammy nominated jazz quartet, Horizons will perform a concert of sacred and standard jazz classics. Led by Peter Prochnow, director of music outreach at Zion Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo, Horizons was formed nearly 10 years ago and is actively engaged in using jazz and jazz influenced musical styles with traditional hymnody for congregational singing. Prochnow will lead a pre-concert discussion of Horizons work in the church.

### Concert: Concordia University Jazz Ensemble ♦

Friday, Dec. 9 • 7:30 p.m. • Kref Center Black Box Theatre  
The Concordia University Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Andrew Schultz, will perform a wide variety of jazz styles, from funk to blues to swing.

### Performance: Dancing Christmas Carols

Sunday, Dec. 11 • 4 p.m. • Kref Center Black Box Theatre  
Tickets: \$5, Children 12 and under: \$3  
Bring your friends and family for an afternoon of singing and dancing to Christmas carols, lead by Joan K. O'Connell, founder and director of Christian Dance Network. All ages and abilities welcome. Join us in the Kref Center Gallery afterwards for fellowship, refreshments and music performed by students from the Ann Arbor School of the Performing Arts. A great way to celebrate the Christmas season!  
"Dancing Christmas Carols" video and book editor: Doug Adams

### Exhibition: The Expressive Figure: Selections from the Permanent Collection of the Art Department, Eastern Michigan University ♦

Jan. 10-Feb. 18 • Kref Center Gallery  
Opening Reception: Thursday, Jan. 12 • 7-9 p.m.  
Gallery talk with Prof. Julia Myers begins at 7:30 p.m.  
Hours: Tue.-Fri. 12-4 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 1-5 p.m.  
Curated by Julia R. Myers, professor of art history at the Eastern Michigan University, this exhibition features selected drawings, paintings, prints, and sculptures from the permanent collection of the Art Department of the Eastern Michigan University. The selected pieces have the human figure in common and they include a very diverse range of styles and media. These experimentations with the figure also parallel the stylistic developments of the period in which they were created: 1950-2000.

♦ Denotes free events

## 2 FRIDAY continued

**Over the Rhine: The Ark.** Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. Opening act is **Kim Taylor**, a young folk-rock singer-songwriter from south Florida. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$16.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**"A Midsummer Night's Dream": EMU Dance Program: EMU Music Department.** EMU dance students perform EMU dance professor Sherry Jerome's adaptation of Frederic Ashton's ballet setting of Mendelssohn's music. The score is performed live by the EMU Symphony Orchestra, which also performs Ravel's *Alborada del Gracioso*. This program is also presented earlier today in 2 free children's concerts (reservations required at 487-2448) at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. 8 p.m., *Pease Auditorium*, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$8; children under 12, \$6) in advance and at the door. 487-2282.

**"Macbeth": U-M Rude Mechanicals.** December 2-4. This U-M student troupe performs one of Shakespeare's best-known and most influential tragedies, the bloody tale of a Scottish lord and his ambitious wife. 8 p.m., *Lydia Mendelssohn Theater*. Tickets \$4.50 (students, \$2.50) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**"The Great American Egg Nog Festival": Black-Bag Productions.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"The Glass Menagerie": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**Ben Creed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 1 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

**"The Christma-Hana-Kwanzaa Holiday Spectacular": Improv Inferno.** Every Friday & Saturday except December 24 & 31. Local improv comics perform skits about the less than delightful aspects of the holidays, like hearing old army stories for the 35th time, fending off the creep at the nondenominational office "Winter Party," and buying Secret Santa gifts for total strangers. "O come, all ye fed up," says an organizer. 8 p.m., *Improv Inferno*, 309 S. Main. \$10. 214-7080.

**Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners.** December 2 & 16. All adults invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., *Grotto Club*, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (PWP members, \$6). 973-1933.

**Swing Dance: Ann Arbor Swing.** Every Friday. Swing dancing to music spun by a DJ. Preceded at 8 p.m. by lessons. 9 p.m., *Dance Revolution*, 603 E. William. \$5 (\$7 includes lesson). 330-5250.

**Patti Wicks: Firefly Club.** Mainstream jazz by a trio led by this stylish New York singer-pianist. Her latest CD, *Love Locked Out*, is a collection of ballads in the tradition of Carmen McRae's *Bittersweet* and Irene Kral's *Where Is Love?* "What you hear after the opening bars of Ray Noble's 'Love Locked Out' is a deep resonant alto peppered with a sensual huskiness that is not in the least bit fuzzy or ill-defined," says *All About Jazz* reviewer Michael Bailey. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., *Firefly Club*, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$10 at the door only. 665-9090.

**Brendan Benson: The Blind Pig.** Rock 'n' roll quartet led by this acclaimed young Detroit singer-songwriter who specializes in smart, punchy power-pop songs in the tradition that runs from the Beatles and the Hollies through the Cars to Jellyfish. Opening act is *SSM*, a Detroit garage rock band. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), *The Blind Pig*, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets \$16 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

**"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno.** Every Friday & Saturday except December 24 & 31. Six improv comics compete in silly improv games, a la *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Each comic competes on behalf of 6 audience members for such fabulous prizes as a mealtime supply of Rice-a-Roni. Ages 18 & older admitted. 10 p.m., *Improv Inferno*, 309 S. Main. Tickets \$10 in advance and at the door. 214-7080.

## FILMS

**U-M Campus Chapel. "Home for the Holidays"** (Jodie Foster, 1995). Comedy about a Thanksgiving



family reunion from hell. Holly Hunter, Robert Downey, Jr., Anne Bancroft. FREE. 668-7421. Campus Chapel Center for Faith and Scholarship (1236 Washtenaw Ct.), 8 p.m. MTF. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday, Mich., times TBA. U-M Center for Japanese Studies. "Profound Desire of the Gods" (Shohei Imamura, 1968). When an engineer visits a remote island, he's repulsed by yet drawn to the squalor of its inhabitants. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. 764-6307. Lorch Hall Askwith Auditorium, Tappan at Monroe. 7 p.m. Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. "Ikiru" (Akira Kurosawa, 1952). A petty bureaucrat who learns he will soon die begins a desperate search to learn what it means to be fully alive. Japanese, subtitles. Followed by discussion. Popcorn. FREE. 994-3387. Jewel Heart (207 E. Washington), 7 p.m.

### 3 SATURDAY

"Winter Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike through a variety of habitats to discover what bird species are in the park. Bring binoculars and a field guide. 8 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$2. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426-8211.

Holiday Bazaar: Bethel AME Church. Show and sale of handmade hats, jewelry, baked goods, arts and crafts, and white elephant items. Also, a fish pond for kids. Lunch available (11 a.m.-2 p.m.). 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. (off Pontiac Trail). Donation. 476-7038.

"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day. This family-oriented dinosaur program includes a fossil dig, a dinosaur puppet show, a dinosaur craft, and other family-oriented demonstrations and activities. Prize drawing. Refreshments. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes. Free. 764-0478.

"Almost Winter Bird Walk": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look for and discuss recently arrived wintertime birds and summer residents that haven't yet got around to leaving. Bring binoculars and a bird guide. Followed by hot drinks in the lodge. 9-11 a.m., Rolling Hills County Park, 7660 Stony Creek Rd. (between Willis & Merritt rds., east of Carpenter), Ypsilanti Twp. Free. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) 971-6337.

Artists Market and Craft Show: Huron High School. Over 100 vendors show and sell art, jewelry, handmade craft items, and wearables. Live music by student musicians from the Huron Symphony Orchestra. Lunch available. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. \$2 admission. 213-4926.

Annual Children's Festival and Holiday Bazaar: Rudolf Steiner School. The entire school is transformed into a children's festival, with King Winter on hand. An activity room features crafts for kids, a children-only gift room has goodies priced for wee budgets, and a quiet tearoom offers a rest spot. Storytelling. An artisans market offers handmade crafts, and one room offers Waldorf toys, which emphasize natural materials. Faculty and staff are on hand to answer questions about the school. Lunch available, with dishes by area restaurants. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission (nominal fee for some activities). 995-4141.

"Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Saturday. 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 913-9851.

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. December 3 & 4. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics, in porcelain and both regular and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with toys, jewelry, and other gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Potters Guild, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663-4970.

"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. December 3 & 4. See review, p. 76. This 19th-century German immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. As visitors tour the kerosene lamp-lit 2-story brick farmhouse, docents in period dress in each room—even the attic—discuss such tidbits as the sound-muffling effect of the bedroom chamber pots' crocheted lid covers and an ingenious two-sided china cabinet built into the wall between the kitchen and dining room. Free hot cider in the farm's spartan log cabin, where docents demonstrate the cooking hook over the cozy

wood fire. Also, a gift shop with baked goods baked on the woodstove, old-fashioned toys, historical books, handmade soaps and candles, fresh greenery items, and other unique stocking stuffers. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 3) & noon-5 p.m. (Dec. 4), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. (From exit 153 on I-94, follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village and turn left at the dead-end T intersection. The farm is 3 miles down.) \$2 admission (children ages 5-17, \$1; ages 4 & younger, free). 426-9135, (313) 278-3701.

★Walk: Grex. Every Saturday (different locations). All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Park (December 3) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (December 10, 17, & 24). 10 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park (Dec. 3) and in Gallup Park parking lot (Dec. 10, 17, & 24), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 741-9351.

"The Himalayan Bazaar in My Garage." December 3, 10, & 17. Sale of a wide range of unique Nepalese gift items by Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas for her adventure tour business Of Global Interest. "Imagine a yak bell in your Christmas stocking," O'Neal suggests. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free admission. 369-3107.

Winter Sale: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. December 3 & 4. Hand-woven scarves, hats, purses, dolls, basketry, beadwork, felting, and handspun yarns. Proceeds from ornament sales benefit a local charity. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 425-1326.

★"Holiday Tile Extravaganza": Motawi Tile-works. Hourly studio tours and demonstrations on mounting and grouting tile (1:30 p.m.), press-molding tile (1:15 & 3:15 p.m.), and glazing (1 & 3 p.m.). Participants can also decorate a 4-by-4-inch tile (11 a.m.-4 p.m.) to be glazed and fired for later pickup. Sale of Motawi tiles. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 170 Enterprise Dr. (off Jackson Rd. east of Baker). Free. 213-0017.

"4 Friends Holiday Sale": Show and sale of wood carvings, jewelry, stained glass, paintings, and more by 4 Chelsea and Ann Arbor artists, Marsi Darwin, Marlene Dusibier, Susan Falcone, and Tracy Gallup. Also, works by other local artists. Live music. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, old US-12 at old Manchester Rd., Chelsea. Free admission. 475-9730.

★17th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. See 2 Friday. Today's special events: breakfast with Santa (8-10 a.m., Chelsea Village Conference Center), walking tour of historic buildings (1, 2, 3, & 4 p.m., First Congregational Church, 121 E. Middle), and a downtown light parade (6 p.m.). The parade is followed at the clock tower complex by a festive party with a preview of Youth Dance Theater's production of *The Nutcracker* (see 9 December listing). 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Chelsea.

★23rd Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 2 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.


★"The End of Oil?": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Talk by U-M economics professor emeritus Richard Porter. Discussion follows. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973-5593.

★"Matter Condensed: Science, Emergence, and Society": U-M Physics Department "Saturday Morning Physics." U-M physics professor James Allen gives the semester's last talk in this popular series of talks aimed at general audiences. Breakfast refreshments. 10:30-11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 501 East University. Free. 764-4437.

★"The Santa Express": White Rabbit Toys. December 3, 10, & 17. Kids of all ages invited to hop aboard this gaily decorated green, yellow, and red minitrain for a festive 6-mile-per-hour spin around the Traver Village parking lot, piloted by area miniature train driver Dan, Dan, the Choo Choo Man. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., White Rabbit, Traver Village Shopping Center, Plymouth Rd. at Nixon. Free. 665-1555.

★Dexter's Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. December 3 & 10. The Dexter of yesteryear is resurrected as carolers stroll the streets and shopkeepers and others dress in Victorian costume. Horse-drawn carriage rides (nominal fee TBA) available throughout the day, and Santa is on hand to talk with kids and have photos taken with them for free. Petting zoo. Food for sale. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., gazebo downtown, near Monument Park, Dexter. Free admission. 426-0887.

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. Every Saturday. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play,



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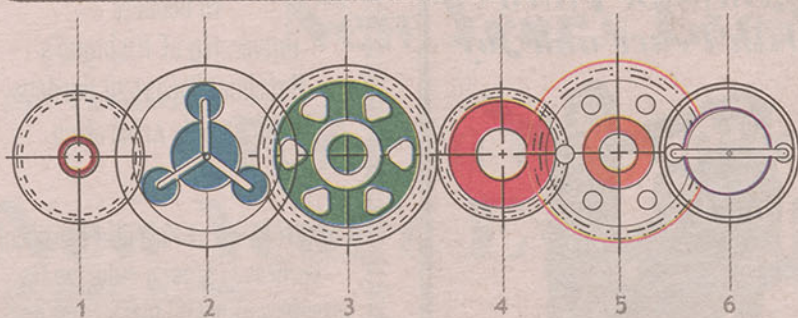
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## holiday fun



## "Christmas on the Farm" Chamber pot etiquette

The Waterloo Area Farm Museum's "Christmas on the Farm" offers a mesmerizing blend of historical hogwash, patinated beauty, and just enough ghosts under the eaves—like a wooden wheelchair in the attic that hints at the agony of former resident Dan Realy, whose legs were both broken by horses—to thoroughly hypnotize visitors.

Wondering what the Realy family would make of a twenty-first-century urban biker chick pulling blue hospital booties over kick-ass black leather boots before gingerly padding through the farmhouse, I opened the creaky screen door.

A modest \$2 later, a tween girl in period clothes in the parlor informed me that the tiny red mittens under the austere Christmas tree festooned with clip-on candles wouldn't have been wrapped—no wrapping paper back then. The mittens accompanied a little hat and a wooden train, a spare array of gifts.

Upstairs in a bedroom, two giggly girls asked me if I knew why the ceramic chamber pot's lid bore a crocheted cover. I didn't. The cover helped muffle clatter, so one's siblings sharing the room wouldn't be awakened.

The girls pulled back the bedding to show the woven rope platform underneath. "When guests would come, they'd tighten the ropes, and that's where we get 'Sleep tight,'" said one. "And this [tick] was filled with chicken feathers, and sometimes they

had mites which would bite, and that's where we get 'Don't let the bedbugs bite.'"

Suspicious of these apocryphal-sounding claims, I later found that "Sleep tight" comes from an old use of *tightly* to mean "soundly," and that the bedbug phrase is younger than the farmhouse. One website linguist sniffed that tour guides "constitute one of today's major 'vectors' or carriers of unfounded etymological 'urban legends'"—or rural legends.

Minor quibbles aside, I found lots to fascinate me: the attic with its bass drum from the erstwhile Waterloo Band, the cozy kitchen's huge cast-iron stove on which bean soup was cooking (free samples), and an artificial tabletop Christmas tree made of goose feathers dipped in green paint, with strands combed into pine-needle-like clumps.

Aside from the farmhouse, the site offers a spartan 1840s log cabin, icehouse, bake house, workshop, windmill, milk house, corner, and granary (now gift shop) to explore, all restored by volunteers. When the farmhouse was up for auction in 1960, it had rotting shutters, crumbling plaster, and a yard of waist-high weeds.

I stayed till dusk revealed how dimly the fragrant kerosene lamps once lit the farmhouse. Leaving, I paused to gaze at the buildings. With ghostlike suddenness, a bonneted girl ran gleefully from the workshop to the farmhouse. I watched her pass and disappear into the gloom.

"Christmas on the Farm" is held Saturday and Sunday, December 3 & 4.

—Laura Bien

## 3 SATURDAY continued

beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. 11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) 434-1615.

**Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House Croissant Concert.** A popular holiday tradition featuring this ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Quintet members, who also offer commentary about the composers and works, are French hornist Steven Mumford, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer. Croissants, coffee, and juice included. 11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

**"The Sky Tonight"/"Season of Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium.** Every Saturday & Sunday through December 18 and December 27-30. The Sky Tonight (11:30 a.m. Saturdays only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both weekend days and holiday weekdays) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. Season of Light (12:30 p.m. Saturdays only and 2:30 p.m. both weekend days and holiday weekdays) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$3.75. 764-0478.

**Solo and Ensemble Recitals: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Over 100 students perform works solo and in various small ensembles. Noon-6 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 995-4625.

**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** Every Tuesday & Saturday. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. 1-3 p.m. (Sat.) & 7:30-9:30



p.m. (Tues.), location TBA. Free. 222-9803, 761-1115.

**German Family Christmas: Kempf House Museum** (Ann Arbor Parks Department). December 3, 4, 10, & 11. This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with a traditional goose-feather tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical turn-of-the-century German American celebration of Christmas. 1-4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. \$1 (children under 12, free). 994-4898.

**U-M Women's Basketball vs. Maine.** 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

**\*Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** Every Saturday & Sunday. 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. 2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764-0478.

**\*"Marble Magnet Madness": Ann Arbor District Library.** All youths in grades 6-12 invited to make a marble magnet holiday gift using magazines, pictures, and photos. 2-4 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327-4200.

**\*"Michigan: The Great Lakes State": Barnes & Noble.** Local writer JoEllen Vinyard is on hand to sign copies of her coffee-table book. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

**\*Classical Bells: Ann Arbor District Library.** This acclaimed 12-member, 74-bell Detroit-area handbell ensemble performs a program of sacred, secular, and seasonal pieces, including popular, jazz, and hymn tunes. The performance includes some choreography and discussion of the music and its history. 2-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

**"Pinocchio": EMU Theater of the Young.** December 3, 4, 9, & 10. EMU drama professor Christine Tanner directs EMU drama students in local playwright Jeff Duncan and composer R. Mackenzie Lewis's musical adaptation of the classic children's tale in the slapstick style of British pantomime known as panto. Pinocchio leads a merry chase in pursuit of his dream of becoming a real boy and discovers a host of colorful characters along the way, including a hip-hop Lady Blue in a traditional Punch and Judy show. Aimed at theatergoers age 6 & older. 2 & 7 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets \$12 (matinees, \$10) in advance up to 30 minutes before the show; \$14 (matinees, \$12) at the door. Group discounts available. 487-1221.

**Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music.** All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. 3-4 p.m., Oz's Music, 1920 Packard. \$10. 662-8283.

**\*Judith Owen: Liberty Borders.** This Welsh-born singer-songwriter and pianist, who is at the Ark on December 5 (see listing), performs selections from her new CD, *Lost and Found*. 4 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

**\*Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Edward Parmentier directs this music-student ensemble in a program of Renaissance and Baroque music performed on both modern and period instruments. 4 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

**\*"The Five Love Languages."** Local couples therapist Carole Kirby discusses how to improve your intimate relationships. 4:15-6:45 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 424-2797.

**\*Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** December 3 & 10. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. 5 p.m.-12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332-9132.

**"Holiday Zenefit Auction": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom.** Live auction of a variety of donated goods and services, ranging from a sight-seeing flight over Ann Arbor for 6, yoga classes, and art glass to a private classical piano concert (with hors d'oeuvres) and University Musical Society and Purple Rose Theater tickets. The program begins with a reception with live musical entertainment by Zen Buddhist Temple members and food prepared by the Temple's talented Dharma chefs. 6 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. \$5. 761-6520.

**\*Children's Movie: Arborland Borders.** Every Saturday. Kids (accompanied by a parent) invited to bring teddy bears and watch a family film TBA. Popcorn. 6 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6948.

**"Higher Ground": Warren Miller Films (Michigan Theater Foundation).** Showing of the latest family-oriented ski adventure film produced and narrated by Warren Miller. Recognized as the world's premier ski filmmaker, Miller has been making ski adventure films for 56 years. He's a major star on the West Coast, where his films draw packed houses for weeklong runs, and the annual Michigan Theater showing usually draws 800 to 1,000 viewers. *Higher Ground* features everything from mountain skier Dave Barlia skiing 10 feet off the ground at 130 miles per hour on the slopes of Chamonix in France and Olympic gold medal favorite Jeremy Bloom heliskiing in the backcountry terrain of British Columbia to the sports hot-dogging icon Glen Plake and 5-year-old phenom Bridger Gile, and more, along with dozens of outrageous gags and stunts and Miller's often tartly humorous narration. 7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$15 (students & kids under 12, \$11) in advance at the Michigan Theater, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS, or (248) 645-6666.

**Rootstand: The Neutral Zone.** This acoustic roots ensemble blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. Opening acts are the jam band *Cardboard Television* and funk bands *The Naughty Drop* and *True Funk Soldiers*. 7 p.m., Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main St. \$7. 214-9995.

**"Cinderella": Ypsilanti Area Dancers.** See 2 Friday. This afternoon's celebrity performers: local district judge Cedric Simpson and another performer TBA. Tonight's celebrity performers: Ypsilanti Township trustee Ruth Ann Jamnick and sheriff Dan Minzey. 2 & 7 p.m.

**\*Opening Reception and Concert: Dreamland Theater.** The opening reception for a display of paintings by local artists Jason Strin and Chris Sandon and puppets by Naia Venturi features music by 2 local bands, the psychedelic band *Slow Children at Play*, and *Das Chritz*, which plays introverted yet playfully bouncy electronic pop. 7 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. 657-2337.

**Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club.** December 3 & 17. Glen Geer calls square dances for experienced dancers to recorded music. No partner necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes (not tennis shoes). Beginner lessons (\$3) available 12:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Dexter-Ann Arbor Road. 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Church, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. \$5. 433-0308.

**2005 Amy Fedel Memorial Concert and Fund-Raiser: Amy and Lisa Fedel.** Acoustic pop-folk originals and classics by Mike Fedel & Friends, a local band led by singer-guitarist Fedel that is joined tonight by various guest performers. Also, a performance by *All about Eve*, a female vocal trio that specializes in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes. The show includes a "sing-along jukebox," in which the audience selects from a list of songs to sing along with the band, and it begins with a 20-minute children's set. Held in memory of Fedel's daughter Amy, an 8-year-old who was killed in 1998 when the family's van was hit by a drunk driver, and to celebrate the recovery of her sister, Lisa Fedel. A benefit for the Michigan Brain Injury Association and Michigan MADD. 7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$10 (kids, \$3) suggested donation. 998-0360.

**28th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University.** See 2 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

**1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance.** Marlin Whitaker calls dances to music by David Orlin and friends. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded by a free open jam for all musicians. 3-6 p.m. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$9; AACTMAD members, \$8; students, \$5. 769-1052.

**"Gimble Safari": Gimble.** This peppy U-M a cappella group performs pop covers ranging from Nat King Cole's "When I Fall in Love" and They Might Be Giants' infectious "Istanbul" to a 90s medley and songs by Jason Mraz, Sarah McLachlan, and Kelly Clarkson. 8 p.m., Modern Languages Building Auditorium 3. Tickets \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. (315) 727-0758.

**Kol HaKavod: U-M Hillel.** This U-M "Jewish a cappella sensation" performs Sabbath prayers, Israeli pop songs, Hebrew Scriptures, and American songs by Jewish composers. 8 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill. \$5. 769-0500.

**\*Damien Francoeur-Krzyzek: U-M School of Music.** Recital by this Colorado College piano

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3 SATURDAY continued

teacher, a U-M music school grad. Program: Barber's *Melodies Passageres*, Liszt's *Three Songs from Schiller's Wilhelm Tell*, Schubert's *Three Italian Songs*, Poulenc's *Eight Polish Songs*, Ravel's *Six Greek Folk Songs*, and Welcher's "Abeja Blanca." 8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

**Stephen Rush and Robert Newcomb: Canterbury House.** U-M music technology professor Rush and local sitarist (and U-M information technology director) Newcomb perform their fusion of sitar music and electronica. A reviewer of recent concerts in Calcutta described their music as an example of "how purist classical Indian music can be the basis of an experimentation process textured by technology." 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5-\$10 donation. 764-3162.

**127th Annual "Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society).** December 3 & 4. The annual choral union performance of Handel's beloved oratorio, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led the next winter to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. Jerry Blackstone directs the chorus and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra**. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Karina Gauvin**, countertenor **Bejun Mehta**, tenor **Robert Breault**, and baritone **Andrew Garland**. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$30 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

**The Javon Jackson Superband: Firefly Club.** Jazz ensemble led by saxophonist Jackson, a former member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers whose eclectic repertoire ranges from Egberto Gismonti to Charles Mingus to Muddy Waters to Frank Zappa. "Saxophonist Javon Jackson plays funk with a slow hand. [He] doesn't beat matters to a froth but allows them to come to fruition in their own time, [an] approach to groove [that] calls for clear arrangements that focus the senses nicely," says *Philadelphia Inquirer* critic Karl Stark in his review of Jackson's acclaimed new CD, *Easy Does It*. 8 & 10 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$30 in advance and at the door. 665-9090.

**Arlo Guthrie: The Ark 40th Anniversary Mas-sacre.** Sold out. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. 761-1451.

**"Csardas: The Tango of the East": The Budapest Ensemble (EMU Convocation Center).** Budapest Ensemble artistic director Zoltan Zsuzsalki directs his world renowned troupe of gypsy dancers and musicians in a showcase of csardas, a fiery, improvised couple dance that is the national dance of Hungary. The show is structured as a fantasy time-trip through the historical regions of Central Europe where this dance form has been adopted, and the story entails love spells and enchantments, hardships and conflicts, jealousies and star-crossed lovers. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$25-\$35 (kids 12 & under, \$15; EMU students, \$5) in advance at the EMU Convocation Center and at the door. 487-2282.

**"The Great American Egg Nog Festival": Black-Bag Productions.** See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"Macbeth": U-M Rude Mechanicals.** See 2 Friday, 8 p.m.

**"The Glass Menagerie": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 1 Thursday, 3 & 8 p.m.

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"The Christmas-Hana-Kwanzaa Holiday Spectacular": Improv Inferno.** See 2 Friday, 8 p.m.

**Ben Creed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 1 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

**"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** Tango dancing to recorded music. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Union after 9 p.m., but those who arrive before 9 p.m. may remain through the end of the evening. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 973-2338.

**Ekoostik Hookah: The Blind Pig.** Acoustic neohip-pie dance band from Columbus, Ohio, whose music is an artful, invigorating mix of psychedelic rock 'n' roll, jazz, funk, and bluegrass. Opening act is **Smokestack**, a bluesy, groove-oriented Ypsilanti quintet. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets \$15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

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## poetry

### In Drought Time Staying home

I'll tell you right up front: a little poem of mine appears in this new anthology, *In Drought Time: Scenes from Rural and Small Town Life*, edited by Douglas Smith, Melody Vassoff, and Karen Woollams. My Observer editor tells me that we don't have to worry about conflict of interest because I'll never make a cent from it. But I have something in this book, because, like the editors, I too appreciate the project.

Many of us who grew up in small towns remember them with a certain nostalgia, even when we also remember the urge to flee. But few of us ever leave home entirely: the small town still defines us in an inescapable way. People who moved there from larger places share the nostalgia, although they often don't understand the need some of us had to escape. The editors of *In Drought Time* have done a good job representing the various nostalgias and have selected both works that celebrate these places (for the most part places in western Washtenaw County) and those that have an unmistakable edge.

The book includes some poetry by well-known writers (Laura Kasischke, Thomas Lynch, Richard Tillinghast, songwriter Jay Stielstra, and others), but most of the work is by lesser-known people, some publishing for the first time. The book is lovingly illustrated by more than twenty artists, most of them local. There are several examples from Laura Strowe, whose exquisite renderings of houses and backyards are familiar to many from her Observer cover paintings. Washtenaw Community College art instructor Elaine Wilson has several landscapes from the western part of the county, including some that exploit the iconic nature of silos. The editors and the publisher have spent the time and money necessary to reproduce these paintings very well. The colors are deep and rich, even when the reproductions are only a couple of inches square.



Editors Melody Vassoff, Douglas Smith, and Karen Woollams.

There are genuinely exquisite poems as well. Laura Kasischke's "Blizzard at the Chelsea Fair," with its mix of humorous narrative and conflicted maternal emotions, will likely become a standard anthology piece. "Village without a River" is a successfully ambitious long sequence about Chelsea by coeditor Smith. But I am particularly attracted to the little poems that try to capture small moments. The book ends with one by Chelsea's David Sing, a deceptively simple poem that subtly echoes a famous poem by William Carlos Williams. The title, "There Are No Poems Here," appearing where it does in the book, can only be ironic:

*There is a mower, wet with rain  
Against a stand of red cedar.*

*In the maple, a nuthatch  
Walks up the tree and pokes suet.  
I think it will be a long winter.*

*On the hill, the children  
Yell and run and fall  
Sounds echo from the willow*

*Which is here, as well  
Raining yellow daggers  
Across the green lawn.*

Some of the poets and artists featured in *In Drought Time* present their work at Washington Street Gallery on Friday, December 2, and at Shaman Drum Bookshop on Thursday, December 8.

—Keith Taylor

Washington. Free, but donations accepted. 994-3387.

★**"A Life Story":** Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talk by U-M mathematics professor emeritus Wilfred Kaplan. 10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971-8638.

★**Hanukkah Bazaar:** Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. December 4 & 11. Gifts, toys, Judaica, and a book table provided by Shaman Drum. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free admission. 975-9872.

★**First Singles:** First Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday through December 18. A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Presbyterian member Dee Valvanis discuss her experiences as a "RASP (Remarkable Aging Smart Person)." Also this month: all invited to bring a game or a humorous reading and a dish to pass for a holiday party (December 11), and First Presbyterian member Polly Pan presents the Teaching Company's Great Figures of the New Testament lecture on "The Virgin Mary" (December 18). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466, ext. 43.

★**Open House: Nature's Expressions.** Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. Includes a complete fossil skeleton of a 9-foot, 100,000-year-old cave bear. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free. 994-3048.

★**Artisan Market.** Every Sunday through December 18. Show and sale of fine crafts, jewelry, soaps, furniture, fiber arts, and gift items. Also, live entertainment TBA. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Farmers' Market, Detroit St. at N. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 665-2009.

★**23rd Annual Christmas Creche Display:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 2 Friday. Also today: a Christmas concert (3 p.m.), with a variety of vocal and instrumental Christmas music. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

★**Tour: Zingerman's Creamery.** December 4, 11, & 18. Zingerman's cheesemaker John Loomis leads a tour of the new facility where Zingerman's cheeses are made. Noon-2 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. Free. 929-0500.

★**8th Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels.** Tour of 6 private homes and a one-room schoolhouse that housed 9 grades, all lavishly decorated for Christmas. Houses on this year's tour range from an 1870 Italianate with a 1700s tavern in its basement to a 1998 colonial with a vintage feel. Proceeds benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Noon-5:30 p.m., various locations. Tickets \$15 in advance in Ann Arbor at John Leidy Shop and in Ypsilanti at the Ypsilanti Visitors and Convention Bureau, Quinn's Essentials in Depot Town, Mantis Garden Supply, and Haab's Restaurant; \$20 day of tour at Cross Street Village. 487-9669.

★**"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas":** Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of mid-19th-century Christmases, with period Christmas decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and live music. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds, including a barnyard with live animals. Gift shop. Noon-4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$2 (families, \$8; children under 3 & members, free). 994-2928.

★**Bridge:** Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Sunday except December 25. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. 12:30-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

★**Michigan Marching Band:** U-M School of Music. A festive concert featuring highlights of the past season's halftime shows, plus U-M school songs. 12:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets \$9 (kids 11 & younger, \$3) in advance at Revelli Hall (350 E. Hoover) and at the door. 764-0582.

★**17th Annual Children's Holiday Parade:** Main Street Area Association. Kids of all ages and their families (strollers welcome) are invited to don a costume if they like and join a downtown street parade starring Santa and Mrs. Claus in their reindeer-powered sleigh. Also, floats, city fire engines, public school buses, costumed animal characters, and area high school marching bands. Scout and Brownie troops and groups of any kind can march together with an identifying banner. Kazoos provided to parade observers. The parade starts at the Federal Building and goes down Liberty to Fourth Avenue to Washington to Ashley and winds up at a petting farm (1-2 p.m.) set up in the Detroit Edison parking lot at William. Kids can also make snowflake prints at the Ann Arbor Art Center (1:30-2:30 p.m.). Afterward,

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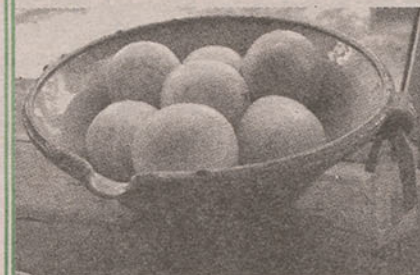


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★**"Damnation Game":** Improv Inferno. See 2 Friday. 10 p.m.

#### FILMS

★**Michigan Theater Foundation.** "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" (Sijie Dai, 2002). December 3 & 5-7. When two Chinese boys are sent into the countryside in 1971 for reeducation, they discover a cache of forbidden Western books and a beautiful young woman. Mandarin & French, subtitles. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Center for Chinese Studies. "Suzhou River" (Lou Ye, 2000). Haunting, dreamy noir tale, echoing Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, about a Shanghai videographer who falls for a seductive "mermaid" in a scruffy nightclub, who might be a long-lost love. Mandarin, subtitles. No children under 12 admitted. FREE. 764-6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 8 p.m.

#### 4 SUNDAY

★**Ultimate Frisbee:** H.A.C. Ultimate. Every Sunday. All invited to a pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Morning time and location TBA. Free. 995-1621.

★**Falun Gong.** Every Sunday except December 25. Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 834-4978.

★**Shorinji Kempo.** Every Sunday except December 25. This Japanese self-defense system combines hard

and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. 9-11 a.m., Arts in Motion Dance Studio, 2839 Boardwalk. Free to first-time visitors (\$25 monthly dues). 332-1780.

★**Meditation:** Karma Thegsum Choling. Every Sunday except December 25. All invited to sitting (9:30 a.m.) and chanting (10 a.m.) meditation. 9:30 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761-7495, 678-7549.

★**"HU: The Age-Old Name for God":** Eckankar of Ann Arbor. All invited to learn the divine song of HU and share spiritual insights. 10 a.m., Gretchen's House, 2340 Oak Valley Drive. Free. 913-9822.

★**Silent Vipassana Meditation:** Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry. Every Sunday except December 25. Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. 10-11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477-5848.

★**Introductory Dharma Talk:** Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Sunday except December 25. Talks by Gehelek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehelek's senior students. Today: Steve Kronenberg discusses "Death Meditation for a Meaningful Life." Also this month: James Jonah on "Anger and Patience" (December 11), and Aura Glaser on "Revolutionizing the Quest for Self-Fulfillment" (December 18). 10-11 a.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E.



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4 SUNDAY continued

free hot chocolate and cookies are available at Palio. 12:30 p.m. (assemble at noon), Federal Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112, ext. 32.

★**Winter Democratic Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Sunday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-5908 & 663-4498 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**Jewelry Sale: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Sale of gently used donated jewelry. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free admission. 998-9353.

★**Ralph's World: The Ark.** Children's concert by this former leader of the indie rock band Bad Examples who switched to writing invigorating rock songs with mischievously kid-friendly themes. The *New York Times* calls his kids music "indie rock for music fans who still hold their parents' hands." 1 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$9 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Dying to Get There": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Birmingham genealogist Karen Krugman, author of 4 family history books, discusses the importance of cemetery visits and cemetery records in genealogical research. Followed by "Getting Organized," a panel discussion with club members offering tips for organizing genealogical research. 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483-2799.

★**Blessings of the Muses Festival: Handiworks Hand Reading.** A variety of Tarot and other card readings, hand readings, and astrology, reiki therapy, and other sessions. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by "Hand Demystified" (\$20), a talk by Handiworks hand reader Adrienne Eliseo. 1:30-5:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore meeting room, 114 S. Main. Free admission. Charge (usually \$10) for each session. (269) 373-6677.

★**"The Encyclopedia of Scrapbooking Tools & Techniques": Barnes & Noble.** Local writer Susan Rothamel is on hand to sign copies of her book. A portion of proceeds from sales of the book donated to Hospice of Michigan. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**"Hiking along the Huron: Exploring the Burns-Stokes Preserve": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalists Faye Stoner and Catherine Marquardt lead a walk in one of the county's new properties to explore its woods, wetlands, and bit of prairie. 2-4 p.m., meet at Sweeper parking lot, 2800 N. Zeeb Rd. Free. 971-6337.

★**"Kerry Tales: Candles Bright with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's (Kerrytown), 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 769-3115.

★**"Picture Ann Arbor: Then and Now": Ann Arbor District Library.** December 4 & 21. All invited to bring in their photos of life in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County so they can be scanned for inclusion in the PictureAnnArbor Project, a searchable and easily browsable collection of digital images at the AADL website (aadl.org). 2-4 p.m. (Dec. 4), AADL 3rd floor meeting room, & 6-8 p.m. (Dec. 21), AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★**"Writing Fantasy": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local fantasy and science fiction writer Sarah Zettel offers youths in grades 6-12 advice on writing fantasy fiction and getting it published. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. 2-3 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662-8283.

★**"Family Cultural Celebration: An Afternoon of Russian Folk Arts": Ann Arbor District Library.** The program begins with a sing-along of lively Russian folk songs led by Sasha Chernyak. Also, a performance of traditional Russian songs by local singer Leta Nikulshina and friends, Russian craft activities, and a woodcarving demo by Zachary Martineck. Refreshments. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**127th Annual "Messiah": University Musical Society.** See 3 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★**"Macbeth": U-M Rude Mechanicals.** See 2 Friday. 2 p.m.



"Pinocchio": EMU Theater of the Young. See 3 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Glass Menagerie": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Cinderella": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 2 Friday. This afternoon's celebrity performers: Ypsilanti mayor Cheryl Farmer and local district judge John Kirkendall. 3 p.m.

**Alternative Holiday Fair: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** This popular holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts—last year's highlight was a giant pile of breathtakingly beautiful, vivid, and intricate large *cuadros*, or cloth applique scenes. Also, jewelry and jewelry boxes, musical instruments, clothing, purses, scarves, pillows, and holiday decorations from Third World countries. Also, a chance to participate in the highly acclaimed Heifer International project by helping to pay for farm animals (some on hand and available for petting) for needy overseas farm families. Proceeds benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. 3–7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663-1870.

**17th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 2 Friday. Today: a holiday concert by the Chelsea Chamber Players (3 & 7 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson St.) and the "Holiday Festival of Carols" (6:30 p.m., Chelsea Retirement Community, 809 W. Middle). 3, 6:30, & 7 p.m., Chelsea.

**EMU University and Chamber Choirs: EMU Music Department.** Leonard Riccinto directs these music-student ensembles in a holiday celebration featuring choral masterworks. 3 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

**"The Leach Pottery": Yourist Pottery.** Screening of a video of this homemade 1952 B&W silent film that explores the studio and work of Bernard Leach, the English potter regarded as the "father of modern pottery" who almost single-handedly rescued the art from oblivion in the early 20th century. 4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662-4914.

**"From Narnia, with Love": St. Luke Lutheran Church.** C. S. Lewis reenactor Mark McPherson brings the great Christian apologist to life and explains the role of Christianity in today's world. 4 p.m., St. Luke, 4205 Washtenaw. Free will offering. 971-0550.

**28th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University.** See 2 Friday. 4 p.m.

**Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Michael Udow directs this music-student ensemble in works by Hardy, Leon, Fitkin, Gomez, Guimera, and others. Guest performer is Detroit Symphony timpanist Brian Jones. 4 p.m., U-M School of Music McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

**Gabe Bolkosky: Kerrytown Concert House.** This local violinist and Phoenix Ensemble founder celebrates the release of *This and That*, his new CD that includes both classical and jazz works. Accompanist is Boston pianist Sarah Bob. Followed by a reception and a CD signing. 4:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** Every Sunday. All invited to try a session of this boisterous, jingly, ancient English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. 6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House Learning Center, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 747-8138.

**"An Advent Procession": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** The St. Andrew's adult and junior choirs and handbell choir perform contemporary American liturgical composer Peter Hallock's contemporary setting of the Advent chants known as the "O" Antiphons. They are interspersed with readings, hymns, and anthems. 7 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

**Lowen & Navarro: The Ark.** Eric Lowen and Dan Navarro are a veteran acoustic folk-rock duo from San Francisco that has written hits for everyone from Pat Benatar to the Bangles. Known for their lilting, sweetly intoxicating vocal harmonies, they usually perform their encore, without amplification, from the middle of the audience. They are joined tonight by pianist and accordionist Phil Parlapiano. Opening act is David Mead, an up-and-coming folk-rock singer-songwriter. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**Carly Simon: Clear Channel Entertainment.** This 70s pop-rock diva best known for her ubiquitous hit singles "You're So Vain" and "Anticipation" has remade herself as a chanteuse of the Great American Songbook. Her latest CD, *Moonlight Serenade*, is a collection of romantic ballads. Opening acts are Simon's 2 children, Ben and Sally Taylor, who also perform some songs with their mother. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$79.50–\$99.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS or (248) 645-6666.

**"Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith": Church of the Incarnation.** December 4 & 11. All invited to discuss novelist and essayist Anne Lamott's book of reflections on life, politics, and faith in post-9/11 America. 8 p.m., Church of the Incarnation, 3257 Lohr Rd. (1/2 mile east of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). Free. 769-7900.

**U-M Ballroom Dancers.** Every Sunday except December 25. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. 8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. \$3. 763-6984.

**Tom Abbs and Frequency Response: Canterbury House.** Screening of Abbs's film *The Animated Adventures of Knox*, a pastiche of such quotidian images as a section of fence, a long hallway, and a tangle of grass. Abbs leads the sextet Frequency Response in a live performance of the film's score. 9 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5–\$10 donation. 764-3162.

#### FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series.** "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946). Oh, you know the story. James Stewart, Donna Reed. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA.

#### 5 MONDAY

**"Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Friday. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 34–45 miles, to either Dexter or the Waterloo Recreation Area. 9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 851-8323 & (517) 285-6830 (today's ride), 994-0044 (general information).

**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** Every Monday. Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, Bible study and chair exercises. Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch (\$1) and socializing. 10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668-8353.

**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** Every Monday. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. 10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. \$5 per week (applicable toward \$60 per semester membership dues) for nonmembers. 213-3770, 663-5907.

**23rd Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 2 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** Every Monday through December 19. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. with **Just for Men**, a discussion group for men. Also, "Fitness Fun" (11 a.m.–noon), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, and the **Writing Group** (1–3 p.m.). Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stroh School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

**"Belonging": Claiming the Collective and the Individual: U-M Institute for the Humanities Brown Bag Lecture.** Fiction writer Karen Outen, an Institute for the Humanities Careers-in-the-Making Fellow, discusses her novel-in-progress exploring issues of family, connectedness, and African American identity. Bring a bag lunch. Noon, Osterman Common Room, 0520 Rackham. Free. 936-3518.

**Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Monday. All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular tile game. 1–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

**Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Every Monday & Friday. All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. 1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

**"Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** U-M American culture and women's studies professor Andrea Smith, cofounder of INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence, is on hand to sign copies of her

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## 5 MONDAY continued

new book. 4 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

★O'Donnell and Toumey: U-M College of Architecture. Talks by the principals of this renowned firm regarded as the cream of Irish architecture. The firm recently won the prestigious RIAI award, given for the best examples of contemporary architecture. One critic notes, "Rather than just regurgitating polite modernism, they allow poetry and a sense of mythology to exist in their buildings." 6 p.m., Art and Architecture Lecture Hall, 2000 Bonisteel, Free. 764-1300.

★Huron Valley Toastmasters. Every Monday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the cafeteria. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). 7-9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: \$48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 663-1836.

★"Baptism and Circumcision: Judaism vs. Christianity": U-M Center for Judaic Studies. Talk by Harvard University Near Eastern languages and civilizations professor Shaye Cohen. 7-8 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. Free. 763-9047.

★"Traveling Through Time: A Guide to Michigan's Historical Markers": Ann Arbor District Library. Michigan State Historic Preservation Office historian Laura Rose Ashlee discusses this new book she edited and explains how to nominate a site for historic designation. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★The Unstuck Writers Society: Shaman Drum Bookshop. All working and aspiring writers invited to join other writers to discuss the problems of writing and getting published with a prominent member of the local literary community TBA. Afterward, share contacts, generate ideas, and provide feedback on each other's writing. You're encouraged to bring something to discuss—a favorite book or article, information about a useful website, or copies of your own work. 7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

★Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus. Every Monday. Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Vitosha Guest Haus Concert Hall, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Free. 973-6084.

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Corinne Hillebrandt. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 663-6297.

★"Antique Tools from the 18th to 20th Centuries": Greenhills School "Life of the Mind" Lecture Series. Greenhills teacher Tom Friedlander brings and discusses antique tools from his collection. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 769-4010.

★EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department. John Dorsey and Donald Babcock direct these 2 music-student ensembles in a program of upbeat jazz standards and contemporary works. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★University Choir and Orpheus Singers: U-M School of Music. Paul Rardin conducts these 2 music-student ensembles. The Choir performs Lauridsen's *Midwinter Songs*, Morton's "In the Splendor," Praetorius's "Den die Hirten lobeten sehr," Scheidt's "A Child Is Born in Bethlehem," and Vaughan Williams's "Lullaby" and "The Blessed Son of God." The Orpheus Singers perform J. S. Bach's "Ich hatte viel Bekummernis." 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

Judith Owen: The Ark. The daughter of a British opera star, Owen is a Welsh-born singer-songwriter and pianist known for her sultry voice and melancholy, trenchant, and jazzy songs. *New York Press* describes her as "a brutally sardonic, keenly observational, jazzier, chanteuse-out version of Tori Amos without the suicidal tendencies." She is joined tonight on bass by her husband, actor-comedian Harry Shearer of *Spinal Tap* and *Simpsons* fame, for an evening of music, theater, and humor. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Monday. Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost

throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. 9-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

## FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Interior Visions Film Series." "Heavenly Creatures" (Peter Jackson, 1994). Two girls create a shared fantasy world, with lethal results. Based on a true story. Melanie Lynskey, Kate Winslet, Diana Kent. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA. "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" (Sijie Dai, 2002). See 3 Saturday. Mich., times TBA.

## 6 TUESDAY

Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Tuesday & Wednesday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. 9:30-11:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 12:45-3:30 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. 25¢ contribution for prizes. 769-5911.

12th Annual Conger Holiday Art Market: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. Sale of works by over 30 area artisans, including baskets, jewelry, textiles, silk floral arrangements, and more. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Also, the Conger Group hosts its annual "Holiday Home Tour" today (see below). 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. \$5 admission. 433-9698.

Holiday Home Tour: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of 4 area homes, all within a short drive of one another, spectacularly decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Ticket includes admission to the Holiday Art Market (see above). 10 a.m.-8 p.m., various locations (see congerhometour.org). Tickets \$15 in advance at Letty's, Downtown Home & Garden, John Leidy, Nicola's Books, and, in Ypsilanti, Quinn's Essentials; \$20 at the holiday art market and tour homes. 433-9698.

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. Every Tuesday & Wednesday through December 13. Stories and songs for kids age 3 & up (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered, through December 15, at the West Branch, Tuesdays, 10-10:30 a.m. & 2-2:30 p.m.; the Malletts Creek Branch, Wednesdays, 10-10:30 & 11-11:30 a.m.; and the Northeast Branch, Thursdays, 9:30-10 & 11-11:30 a.m. 10-10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 7-7:30 p.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (branches).

★Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Tuesday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. 10 a.m.-noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. Every Tuesday. All seniors invited to try "Improv for Fun" (December 6), a stimulating session of improvisational theater led by Empatheater artistic director Sara Schreiber, or participate in the social discussion group "Let's Talk About" (December 13, 20, & 27). Followed by mah-jongg (noon-2 p.m.), and creative crafts (1-3 p.m.), including quilting, knitting, and scrapbooking. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★"Evaluating China's Poverty Alleviation Programs: Has Village Planning Worked?": U-M Center for Chinese Studies. Talk by U-M economics professor Albert Park. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6308.

★"After Geppetto": U-M School of Art & Design B-Line Tours. December 6 & 13. U-M art students introduce a puppet show, the culminating project of their puppetry class, at the AATA stop in front of the Michigan Theater and then perform the show for passengers as the bus makes its way to the Blake Transit Center and then down North University. 2:04, 3:04, & 5:04 p.m., Michigan Theater bus stop. Free. 764-0397.

★Ann Arbor Checkers and Draughts Society. December 6 & 20. Adults invited to play checkers, known as draughts in England. Also, participants can try to solve tricky end-of-game brainteasers. 6:30 p.m., downtown cafe TBA. Free. 827-0328.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. December 6 & 11. This Ann Arbor-based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players under the guidance of U.S. National coach Jeff Jackson. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules, September-March, against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18-21), American



college teams, and comparable European national teams. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Cleveland** of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m., *Ann Arbor Ice Cube*, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$12 (students & children, \$6). 327-9251.

**U-M Women's Basketball vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore.** 7 p.m., *Crisler Arena*. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

**★Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** Every Tuesday. All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. 7-9 p.m., *West Side United Methodist Church*, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors. 213-3770.

**★"Creamery Cheeses Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse.** Zingerman's Creamery cheesemaker John Loomis hosts a dinner featuring Zingerman's artisan cheeses and wines chosen to highlight their nuanced flavors. 7 p.m., *Zingerman's Roadhouse*, 2501 Jackson. \$35 (\$54 includes wine). Reservations required. 663-FOOD.

**★"Parenting in a Materialistic Age": U-M Center for the Child and the Family "Family Life in the 21st Century" Series.** Talk by Center for the Child and Family psychologist Margaret Buttenheim. 7-8:30 p.m., *UCCF*, 530 Church St. Free. 764-9466.

**★"12 Interdependent Links of Existence: Birth, Old Age, and Death": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Talk by Jewel Heart member Chris Branson. 7 p.m., *Jewel Heart Buddhist Center*, 207 E. Washington. Free. 994-3387.

**★"Stupas, Statues, and Frescoes: The Art of Ancient Sri Lanka": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies visiting Fulbright scholar SinhaRaja Tammita-Delgoda. 7-8:30 p.m., *AADL multipurpose room (lower level)*, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

**★"Detoxification": Whole Foods Market.** Local herbalist Cindy Klement discusses fasting and cleansing programs. 7-8:30 p.m., *Whole Foods*, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975-4500.

**★"A Venetian Affair": Vox Early Music Ensemble Book Club.** Shaman Drum staff member Laura Grey leads a discussion of Andrea di Robilant's engaging, poignant novel, based in part on a cache of letters her father discovered in their ancestral palazzo, about a clandestine love affair between an 18th-century Venetian nobleman and a half-English beauty of dubious social standing. 7 p.m., *Shaman Drum Bookshop*, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

**Ann Arbor Poetry Slam.** Reading by New York city poet **Roger Bonair-Agard**, a 2-time National Slam champion who has been featured on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*. His new collection, *"tarnish and masquerade,"* is due out this fall. Also, open-mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a \$10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. Tonight's slam is also a qualifier for the Individual World Poetry Slam Championship, to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, in February 2006. 7-10 p.m., *Club Heidelberg* (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. \$5. For information, call Larry Francis at 426-3451.

**★Sweet Adelines County Connection.** All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. Also, nonmembers are invited to perform with County Connection's Holiday Chorus at occasions around town during the holiday season. 7-10:30 p.m., *UAW Local 898 Hall*, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$20 monthly dues for those who join). 480-8843.

**English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance.** December 6, 13, & 20. Historical and traditional English dances. Today: Arlene Kindel, Carol Jacobs, and Torbin Zimmerman call to music by David West and Donna Baird. Also this month: callers Ray Bantle, Bronwen Gates, and Alan Simpson-Vlach with music by Childgrove (December 13), and callers Shirley Harden, Carol Jacobs, and Erin Larkspur with music by West, Baird, Anne Ormand, Betsy Foote, and Paul Winder, and tonight's dance also features a **solstice party** (December 20). No partner needed; all dances taught. Wear comfy flat shoes with some grip. 7-9:30 p.m., *Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse*, 3350 Green Rd. \$6 (students & children, \$5). 422-1170.

**★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** Every Tuesday. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., *Stony Creek United Methodist Church*, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Keith Opal at 741-1506.

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### 6 TUESDAY continued

**Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** Every Tuesday. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 27th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.). U-M indoor track, S. State at Hoover. U-M pass (\$5 per day) required. 663-9740.

**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** Continued from November. All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *La Habana en un Espejo*, Alma Guillermoprieto's lightly fictionalized portrait, cast as a memoir, of Cuban life during the revolution. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-0600.

**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** December 6 & 13. Tonight: club members show their recent slides and prints. Also this month: club members Judith and Don Skiff discuss "Adding Zip to Drab Photos Using Photoshop" (December 13). 7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free (\$15 annual dues for those who join). 327-4781.

**Introduction to Anthroposophy: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Informal monthly talk on our relationship to the cosmos as described by Rudolf Steiner. Today, local architect Richard Black discusses "Anthroposophical Architect." 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. Wheelchair-accessible. 485-3764.

**Action Action: The Blind Pig.** Popular Long Island indie rock quartet. Opening act is **Women & Children First**, a dance-pop band. 7:30 p.m.-midnight (doors open at 7 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets \$8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

**German Speakers' Round Table.** Every Tuesday. All German speakers invited for conversation. 8 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Co., 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665-2931.

**Flute Choir: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone and Amy Wagner direct this music-student ensemble in a program TBA. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

**Chamber Choir: U-M School of Music.** Jerry Blackstone leads this music student-ensemble in Rossini's large-scale yet intimate *Petite Messe Solennelle*. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

**Jane Siberry: The Ark.** Canadian art-rock singer-songwriter whose richly textured, adventurously multilayered, highly conceptual, and ethereally lyrical original songs have provoked comparisons to Joni Mitchell and Laurie Anderson. Her concert repertoire features songs from throughout her career, and her December shows usually include some pieces from her 2003 CD *Shushan the Palace* (*Hymns of Earth*), a collection of characteristically free-spirited interpretations of classical Christmas vocal music. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** Every Tuesday. All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. 10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222-9999.

**"Tuesday Ticker": The Heidelberg Club Above.** Every Tuesday. Short sets by a variety of area and regional stand-up comics. If you'd like to perform, contact emcee Brian Cook at [BCook@umich.edu](mailto:BCook@umich.edu) at least 5 days in advance. 10 p.m.-midnight, Club Above (3rd floor of the Heidelberg), 215 N. Main. \$5 at the door only. 663-5578.

### FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series.** "The Shop Around the Corner" (Ernst Lubitsch, 1940). Romantic comedy about 2 rival employees in a Budapest gift shop who don't realize they are romantic pen pals. James Stewart, Margaret Sullavan. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA. "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" (Sijie Dai, 2002). See 3 Saturday. Mich., times TBA.

### 7 WEDNESDAY

**"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers/Busch's Valu Land.** December 7-11. Live broadcasts by Kool 107 DJs. Nonperishable food donations, dropped off at Busch's, requested for Food

Gatherers, a local organization that collects excess fresh food from restaurants and markets to distribute to local shelters and other organizations with food programs. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. (Dec. 7-10) & 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (Dec. 11), Busch's Valu Land, 2240 S. Main. Free admission; donations of canned goods or cash encouraged. 761-2796.

**2-Year-Old Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** December 7 & 14. Stories, rhymes, and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). 9:30-9:50 & 10:30-10:50 a.m., AADL story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

**"The Bible in Its Time, Part VI: The Return from Babylon in Its Ancient Near Eastern Context": Jewish Community Center.** Every Wednesday. A series of talks by U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies visiting scholar Lisbeth Fried. 10 a.m.-noon, JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

**"Musicians of the Sun": Wild Swan Theater.** December 7-11. This award-winning local children's theater presents local playwright Madeline Diehl's adaptation of Gerald McDermott's Caldecott-winning children's book based on an Aztec myth about the Sun God's theft of music and color from humankind. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement (995-0530) for blind audience members. Cast: Maite Zubia, Sandy Ryder, Michelle Trame-Lanzi, Rusty Mewha, Anne Heintz, Molly McMahon, Erika Guiza, and Tamara Wright. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium. Tickets \$10 (children, \$8) in advance at 998-7061 and at the door. To arrange tours or audio description, call 995-0530.

**Wednesday Winter Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Wednesday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. 11 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-5908 & 663-4498 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

**Wednesday Storytime: Arborland Borders.** Every Wednesday. A Borders staffer reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Andrew Breakspear's *Skating with Bears* and Miriam Moss's *Snow Bear*. Also this month: Ludwig Bemelmans's *Madeline in London* and *Madeline in America* (December 14), Jan Brett's *The Mitten* and *The Hat* (December 21), and Graeme Base's *Animalia* and Kae Nishimura's *I Am Dodo* (December 28). 11 a.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449-9394.

**"Wednesday Art Videos": U-M Museum of Art.** December 7, 14, 21, & 28. This month's videos consist of installments from the documentary *The Silk Road: An Ancient Road of Adventure*. Today: *A Heat Wave Called Turfan*. Also this month: *Through the Tian Shan Mountains by Rail* (December 14), *Journey into Music: South Through the Tian Shan Mountains* (December 21), and *Where Horses Fly like the Wind and Two Roads to the Pamirs* (December 28). 12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

**Lunchtime Organ Recital: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** December 7, 14, & 21. A series of recitals by area organists. Today: Central United Methodist Church (Detroit) organist Edward Maki-Schramm performs works by Bach, Vierne, and Ropok. 12:15 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

**Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Every Wednesday. All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

**"Who's Afraid of Virginia Ham?": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Renowned feminist performance artist Holly Hughes, currently a U-M art and theater professor, and U-M art grad student Jim Leija discuss their collaboration on this performance piece, scheduled to be presented on campus in April. 4-6 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537.

**Scrabble: The Firefly Club.** Every Wednesday. All invited to join Firefly owner Susan Chastain and other local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. 5-8 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free. 665-9090.

**Wine Tasting: Paesano's Restaurant.** Every Wednesday. A chance to sample 5 different Italian wines each week, in an informal and friendly setting, with a selection of appetizers. 6-7 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. Space limited; reservations recommended. \$20. 971-0484.

**Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** Every Wednesday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). 6:15-7:45 p.m., 101 Science Hall, Concordia University, 4090



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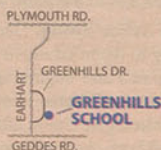
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7 WEDNESDAY continued

Geddes. Free to visitors. Dues: \$30 semiannually. 994-1479.

**U-M Men's Basketball vs. Delaware State.** 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

**Ann Arbor Bridge Club.** Every Wednesday. Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) \$3 per person. 971-7530.

**★Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Every Wednesday through December 14. Featured writers read from their current work. Tonight: **Zach Lupetin**, a Hopwood-winning U-M creative writing and film-video undergrad. 7-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

**★Elizabeth Block: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This award-winning fiction writer and poet, a U-M grad, reads from *A Gesture Through Time*, her new novel, at once severely philosophical and engagingly comic, about the aftermath of a forbidden love affair between a Detroit steel factory worker and the factory's teenage heir. 7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

**★Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** Every Wednesday. All invited to join an hour of meditation in the Karma Kargyu tradition. Instruction for beginning meditators available at 7 p.m. by appointment. 7:30-8:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761-7495, 678-7549.

**★Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** Every Wednesday. Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. 7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 699-8101.

**★Wendy Popko: Barnes & Noble.** This Detroit-area artist is on hand to sign copies of the books she has illustrated, *Has Anyone Seen Christmas?* and *The Fairy Painting*. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

**★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** Every Wednesday. Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 5-8. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

**★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. 7:30-10 p.m., Michigan Central Depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426-5100.

**★"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** Every Wednesday. All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *Theosophy*. 8-9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485-3764.

**Bettye LaVette: The Ark.** See review, p. 91. Veteran Detroit R&B and blues-based soul singer with a tough, feisty, passionate vocal style. "A dynamic singer, when she periodically dropped the microphone to howl a cappella, she got the lawn crowd halfway across the park to howl back," says *Chicago Daily Herald* music critic Mark Guarino in his review of LaVette's performance at a recent Chicago Blues Festival. Her 2003 CD *A Woman Like Me* won the W. C. Handy Comeback Album of the Year award, and her new CD, *I've Got My Own Hell to Raise*, has been widely hailed as the best of her career. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**"The Glass Menagerie": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"The Wild Card": Improv Inferno.** Every Wednesday. A mix of sketch comedy and improv games by local comedians. 8 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. \$5. 214-7080.

**"Chili's Comedy Dojo": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Fast-paced show featuring stand-up comedy by 15 recent graduates of veteran comic and Tonight Show writer Chili Challis's Comedy Dojo. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

**Swing Dance: Ann Arbor Swing.** December 7, 14, & 21. Swing dancing to recorded music. Preceded by intermediate (7:30 p.m.) and beginning (8:30 p.m.) lessons. Note: Guests not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Michigan Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the evening. 9:30 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room (Dec. 7), U-Club (Dec. 14), and Ballroom (Dec. 21). \$5 (students, \$4). 330-5250.

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## galleries

### New exhibits this month:

**Ann Arbor District Library.** Portraits by Fay Kleinman; Ann Arbor Library Staff Art Show (main library, December 2–January 14; Mallett Creek Branch, December 17–January 30). 327-4510.

**Art Warehouse.** *So This Is Xmas: The Artwork of John Lennon* (December 8–11). 668-7112.

**Dreamland Theater.** *Entertaining Diversions: Puppets, Paintings, and Weirdness* (December 3–31). 657-2337.

**EMU Ford Gallery.** *Graduate Thesis Exhibitions: Ann Rataj* (December 5–9), *Tanya Rudenjak* (December 12–16), & *Nemanja Rosic* (December 19–23). 487-1268.

**Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals).** *Snowflake Papercuttings* by Thomas Clark; *Ceramics* by Heather Murray; *Photography* by Carol Guregian; *Bronze Sculpture* by Janice Trimpe; *Oil*

*Paintings* by Clay Stauffer; *Rocks and Minerals* from Becca Greene; *Oil Paintings* by Rick Finger; *Ceramics* by Daria Kim; *Nature Photography* by J. L. McAlonan (December 17–February 8). 936-ARTS.

**Riverside Arts Center.** *Roger Varland M.F.A. Thesis Photography Exhibition* (December 1–22). Reception 2 Friday, 4:30–6:30 p.m.

**U-M Residential College / East Quad Art Gallery.** *Student Show* (December 16–January 5). 763-0176.

**U-M Special Collections Library.** *From Papyrus to King James: The Evolution of the English Bible* (December 1–January 28). 764-9377.

**Washington Street Gallery.** *Kindred Spirits* (December 6–February 5). 761-2287.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2005–2006 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or [arborweb.com](http://arborweb.com).

**"The Mechanicals": Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater.** December 7–10 & 14–17. Local playwright Lynn Lammers directs her new interactive comedy, adapted from one of the plots of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, about 6 actors determined to perform a play on the theme of Pyramus and Thisbe. In this production, audience members are cajoled into playing parts and serving as props and can make suggestions to the motley group of actors as they rush to ready their play for its royal debut. 11 p.m., *Performance Network*, 120 E. Huron. Ticket \$10 (students, \$8) in advance at [performancenetwork.org](http://performancenetwork.org) & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663-0681.

### FILMS

**MTF.** "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday, Mich., times TBA. "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" (Sijie Dai, 2002). See 3 Saturday, Mich., times TBA.

### 8 THURSDAY

**"Liszt's Schubert Transcriptions": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild.** Lecture-demonstration by EMU piano professor Joel Schoenhals. 10 a.m., *Kerrytown Concert House*, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 996-1344.

**"Musicians of the Sun": Wild Swan Theater.** See 7 Wednesday, 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

**American Association of University Women.** Classical music performances by Rislov scholarship students. Lunch included. All invited. 11:30 a.m., *Women's City Club*, 1830 Washtenaw. \$22. Preregistration required by December 1. 330-4138.

**\*Eileen Pollack: U-M English Department.** Reading by this U-M English professor, author of the novel *Paradise*, *New York*, the short fiction collection *The Rabbi in the Attic*, and the nonfiction portrait *Women Walking Ahead: In Search of Catherine Weldon and Sitting Bull*. The *Washington Post* praised *Paradise* for its "stark and precise depiction of the psychological and cultural states of American Jewry." 5 p.m., *Residential College Auditorium*. Free. 615-3710.

**\*"Methods of Manifesting Health and Self-Empowerment": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local naturopath Audrey Blagsvedt. 7–8:30 p.m., *Whole Foods*, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975-4500.

**\*Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health.** Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-9724.

**\*Holiday Dinner: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club.** Bring a dish to pass (and your own table service) for the potluck; beverages provided. Participants are also asked to bring a bird-related item to be auctioned tonight. Proceeds benefit avian education and research. Bring your bird. 7 p.m., *Ann Arbor Community Center*, 625 N. Main. Free. 662-4582.

**"Seasonal Beers": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting.** A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7–9 p.m., *Arbor Brewing Company*, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

**\*"Community Sing": U-M Museum of Art Second Thursday Performance Series.** All invited to join the members of the *Carillon Women's Chorale*, directed by Karen Nevins, for an informal sing of

holiday favorites. 7 p.m., *UMMA*, 525 S. State at *South University*. Free. 763-UMMA.

**\*"In Drought Time: Scenes from Rural and Small Town Life": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** See review, p. 79. Readings by some of the poets (see 2 Friday listing) whose work is included in this new anthology of works by local poets and graphic artists exploring small town and rural life. Signing. 7 p.m., *Shaman Drum*, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

**Poetry Night: The Neutral Zone.** Readings by Brooklyn poet and 1999 National Poetry Slam individual champion Roger Bonair-Agard, New Jersey poet Patrick Rosal, local poet Keith Taylor, and Neutral Zone poets. A portion of the proceeds benefits Washtenaw Literacy. 7 p.m., *Rackham Auditorium*, 915 E. Washington. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door (students, \$4 in advance & \$5 at the door). 214-9995.

**\*"Bat Boy, the Musical": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** December 8–10. Ryan Foy directs Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming's musical, based on a story in the *Weekly World News*, about a half-bat, half-boy creature found living in a West Virginian cave, and of his struggles to fit in. 7 p.m., *Arena Stage (Frieze basement)*, 105 S. State. Free. 764-6800.

**Horizons Jazz Quartet: Concordia University.** Peter Prochnow leads this Grammy-nominated quartet in a program of sacred music and jazz standards. Prochnow gives a short talk before the concert on the quartet's work with the church. 7:30 p.m., *Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater*, 4090 Geddes. Tickets \$15 (seniors, \$12; students, \$9; children 12 & under, \$7) in advance and at the door. 996-4612.

**"A Flea in Her Ear": U-M Theater Department.** December 8–11. U-M theater professor John Neville-Andrews directs U-M drama students in George Feydeau's witty 1907 bedroom farce, a cannily constructed, deliciously amusing series of misunderstandings, clandestine assignations, and misplaced jealousies. The mischief is triggered when a woman, under the mistaken impression that her husband is having an affair, writes him an anonymous letter requesting a romantic rendezvous at a disreputable hotel. 7:30 p.m., *Power Center*. Tickets \$16 & \$22 (students, \$9) at the *Michigan League Box Office* in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

**\*"Trek to Everest Base Camp and Run (or Walk) the Everest Marathon": Of Global Interest.** Local adventure tour company owner Heather O'Neal presents a multimedia slide show about traveling in Nepal, trekking to the Mount Everest base camp, and running a marathon on the mountain. Also, a peek at an Everest wedding. 8 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free. 369-3107.

**\*Chester String Quartet: U-M School of Music.** Performance by this acclaimed string quartet that includes Meadowmount (New York) violin professor Kathryn Votapek, New York-based violist Dov Scheindlin, U-M violin professor Aaron Berofsky, and U-M cello student James Wilson. The program includes works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Britten. 8 p.m., *U-M Music School Recital Hall*, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

**Local Music Showcase: Dreamland Theater.** Triple bill. Music TBA by *Dabenport* is a local lo-fi indie pop band whose influences range from Johnny Cash and the Byrds to My Bloody Valentine and the Jesus and Mary Chain. Multi-instrumentalist Jason Voss plays introspective southern folk, and Charlie Slick combines synth pop, pre-recorded backing tracks,



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## 8 THURSDAY continued

wild dance moves, strobe lights, and, for good measure, a bubble machine. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Donation. 657-2337.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra: University Musical Society.** Robert Spano conducts one of the world's finest orchestras, a 110-member ensemble that has won more Grammy Awards than any other individual or group in the world. The orchestra is joined by the **Marcus Roberts Trio**—pianist Marcus Roberts, drummer Jason Marsalis, and bassist Roland Guerin—for a performance of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. The program also includes Leonard Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* and Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Symphony no. 2*. Preceded by a dinner featuring a talk about tonight's program by U-M music professor Mark Clague (6 p.m., U-M Alumni Center, \$40; preregistration required at 764-8489). 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$90 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

**Jesse Richards: The Ark.** An agile, versatile performance artist and singer-songwriter with a multioctave vocal range, this acclaimed local artist is known for a creative restlessness and daring that reveals itself in her songs' extreme thematic range—from politics to spirituality—and stylistic variety, from avant-rock and folk to theatrical pop and sonic explorations. The celebrated performance artist Laurie Anderson calls her dance-theater musical *Animal Lover's Project* "a wonderful show" and "a beautiful painting of the animal world." Tonight, to celebrate the release of her CD *Wild Card*, she is joined by several of her local creative partners, including harmonica wizard Peter Madcat Ruth, vocalist Alyssa Schreiber, bassist Todd Perkins, drummer Matthew Steward, cellist Abby Alvin, and others. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**"Barnum's Nightingale": U-M Clements Library.** December 8-10. Renowned local mezzo-soprano Joan Morris, a U-M musical theater professor, directs her original musical, a fable about 19th-century Swedish singer Jenny Lind and her fabulously successful 1850 tour of America, under the grasping and greedy management of P. T. Barnum. The cast includes Morris, Malcolm Tulip, Carmen Pelton, and David Gilliland. Accompanied by a string quartet, guitarist, and pianist TBA. 8 p.m., Clements Library, 909 South University. Tickets \$20 (Clements Library members, \$15; students, \$5) in advance or at the door. 764-2347.

**"Life with Father": P.T.D. Productions.** December 8-11 & 15-17. Dennis Platte directs local actors in Howard Lindsay and Russell Crouse's 1939 comedy, the longest-running nonmusical in Broadway history. It's an affectionate portrait of a bumbling yet sly stockbroker who's a benevolent despot in his home, and his seemingly flighty wife, who really rules their 1880s Manhattan home and is on a lifelong quest to get her husband baptized. The cast includes Rick Kanton, Amy Griffith, Matt Sameck, Bryan Glick, Val Mercieca, Kristen Pritulsky, Lois Kuznets-Dowling, Joe York, Pamela Thomas, Jim Dowling, Marvin McIntosh, Allie Vail, Ben Mercieca, Denise Smith, and Andi Vale. 10% of proceeds benefit Food Gatherers (bring nonperishable food to donate). 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance or at the door. 483-7345.

**"The Sorcerer": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society.** December 8-11. This accomplished local town-and-gown company opens its 59th season with one of Gilbert and Sullivan's early comic operettas. A happily married young couple decide the world would be better if everyone could know their bliss. The husband enlists a sorcerer to create a love potion that's served up in a communal pot of tea. The inhabitants drink the tea, fall into an enchanted sleep, and awake to fall passionately in love with the first person they lay eyes upon. This results in a lot of uncomfortably comic mismatches, and in order to reverse the situation, the sorcerer must sacrifice himself—an unusual twist for the main comic figure in a G&S operetta.



The Ann Arbor Youth Chorale performs its annual winter concert at First Presbyterian Church Dec. 11.

The score is probably best known for the patter song "My Name Is John Wellington Wells," a standard for G&S baritones. The cast includes David Kozisek, Rebecca Nathanson, Elizabeth Gentry, Richard Harper, Matt Grace, Alan Wineman, Erica Ruff, Lori Gould, and David Zinn. Directed by Jason Bitman. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets \$15 & \$20 (seniors, \$14 & \$19; students, \$7 & \$9), at the Michigan League box office and at the door. \$5 student rush tickets available on December 8 only. 764-2538.

**"The Great American Egg Nog Festival": Black-Bag Productions.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"The Glass Menagerie": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"The Catfight": Improv Inferno.** Every Thursday except December 1. Weekly competition between different pairs of improv groups. Competitors present a half hour of their best comedy, and the audience chooses the "Baddest Cat in the Fight." Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. \$5. 214-7080.

**Tom Simmons: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** December 8-10. Up-and-coming young observational and topical humorist known for his provocatively skeptical takes on everything from politics and religion to the minor absurdities of everyday life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 (Thurs.) & \$11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

**"High Octane": Improv Inferno.** Every Thursday except December 1. Performance by a past winner TBA of the club's weekly "Catfight" competition (see listing above). Alcohol is served. 10 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. \$5. 214-7080.

**"The Mechanicals": Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater.** See 7 Wednesday. 11 p.m.

## FILMS

**MTE. "Pride and Prejudice"** (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA. **Projectorhead. "The City of Lost Children"** (Marc Caro, 1995). Bleak, beautifully imagined fantasy about a monster unable to dream who kidnaps children from a nearby island to steal their dreams. French, subtitles. FREE. 615-0445. Modern Languages II (812 E. Washington). 7 p.m.

## 9 FRIDAY

**"Musicians of the Sun": Wild Swan Theater.** See 7 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

**\*The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center.** All invited for readings and discussion of Yiddish literature selections TBA. Also, singing of Yiddish songs. 1:30-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.



★**Russ McLogan: Borders Express.** This writer signs copies of *Boy Soldier*, his autobiographical portrait of his experiences as a young soldier in WW II. 5-8 p.m., *Borders Express*, Briarwood mall. Free. 669-0785.

★**"Parents' Night Out": Kerrytown Shops.** Many Kerrytown merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Live music TBA. 7-9 p.m., *Kerrytown Shops*. Free admission. 662-5008.

★**"The Take": Ann Arbor District Library.** Screening of Avi Lewis's award-winning documentary about resistance to globalization. Set in the wake of Argentina's 2001 economic collapse, it's the story of some 30 unemployed auto-parts workers who walk into their idle factory, roll out sleeping mats, and refuse to leave. 7-8:30 p.m., *AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall*. Free. 327-4560.

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Tonight: prose by Taemi Lim and poetry by Ayelet Amittay. 7 p.m.

★**"Pinocchio": EMU Theater of the Young.** See 3 Saturday, 7 p.m.

★**"Bat Boy: The Musical": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 8 Wednesday, 7 & 11 p.m.

★**U-M Ice Hockey vs. Nebraska-Omaha.** December 9 & 10. 7:30 p.m., *Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley*. \$12-\$17. 764-0247.

★**"The Israeli Wall in Palestinian Lands": Ann Arbor Middle East Film Society.** Screening of Andrew Courtney and Emily Perry's 2004 documentary about the effect on the lives of Palestinians of the wall being constructed to insulate Israel from Palestinian lands. 7:30 p.m., *Michigan Union Anderson Room*. Free; donations accepted. 668-1358.

★**Holiday Concert: Saline Varsity Blues.** December 9 & 10. This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7-18 presents a program of solo, duo, and small-group vocal performances and skits. 7:30 p.m., *Saline High School auditorium, 1300 Campus Pkwy. (off Industrial, north from E. Michigan), Saline*. Tickets (cost TBA) at the door only. 944-3162.

★**Jazz Ensemble: Concordia University.** Andrew Schultz leads this student ensemble in a wide-ranging program from funk to blues to swing. 7:30 p.m., *Concordia University Kraft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes*. Free. 996-4612.

★**"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan.** December 9-11. Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet, based on an E. T. A. Hoffmann story about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. 7:30 p.m., *Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer (between Old US-12 and Washington St.), Chelsea*. Tickets \$15 (\$8, seniors & students; call for group rates) available in advance at the *Glass Slipper and the Dancer's Boutique*, or at the door. 475-3070.

★**Groove: University Activities Center.** This U-M student ensemble blends choreography with vibrant, infectious, high-energy percussion on a wide range of unorthodox instruments, including garbage cans, brooms, newspapers, and even basketballs. 7:30 p.m., *Michigan Theater*. Tickets (cost TBA) available at the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** December 9 & 23. All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's lecture cycle *According to Luke*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8-9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662-6398.

★**Fall Concert: Dicks and Janes.** This U-M student a cappella ensemble performs an eclectic program of jazz, Latin, pop, rock, oldies, and more. 8 p.m., *Michigan Union Ballroom*. Tickets (cost TBA) available at the door. 239-1757.

★**Symphony Band: U-M School of Music.** Michael Haithcock conducts this music-student ensemble in the Overture to Kabalevsky's opera *Colas Breugnot*, Dahl's *Sinfonietta*, Grantham's *Fayetteville Bop*, Stuckey's *Funeral Music for Queen Mary*, Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* (with narration by U-M voice professor *George Shirley*), and Tommasi's *Three Spanish Songs*, with guest soprano *Carmen Pelton*, a U-M music professor. 8 p.m., *Hill Auditorium*. Free. 764-0594.

★**Joel Hastings: First Baptist Church.** December 9 & 11. See review, p. 95. This nationally renowned Canadian-born, Ann Arbor-based pianist, a U-M grad and 3-time winner of the music school's annual concerto competition, has been described by the *Windsor Star* as "a nearly flawless player, with arpeggios that can raise the hair on your neck and cadenzas that have shape and consistency." The program includes Chopin's *24 Etudes* and Australian composer Carl Vine's *Piano Sonata* (1990). 8 p.m.,

*First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron*. \$15 (students, \$10) suggested donation. 663-9376.

★**Katie Geddes & Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church).** Triple bill of ensembles featuring Katie Geddes, a local folksinger who sings in a clear, strong voice. Geddes also performs a couple of duets with *Mary McCaslin*, the veteran folksinger who specializes in songs that evoke the romance of the American Dream or comment on its decline, including "The Bramble and the Rose," a song she cowrote with her late husband, Jim Ringer. McCaslin also performs a set by herself. The rest of the lineup: *The Usual Suspects* is a band that plays folk, country-folk, and gospel tunes, and *Matt Watroba's Jukebox* is an acoustic quartet led by Detroit folksinger-guitarist Watroba that plays classic country songs by everyone from the Louvin Brothers and Delmore Brothers to Hank Williams and Roger Miller. All about Eve is a female vocal trio that specializes in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes, some performed a cappella and some accompanied by pianist John Goodell. 8 p.m., *FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way*. \$12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662-4536, 665-8558.

★**Jorrit Dijkstra's Flatlands Collective: Kerrytown Concert House "Jazz at the Edge."** Amsterdam-based alto saxophonist and lyricist player Dijkstra has assembled a group of Chicago improvisational musicians to explore the musical influence of place by blending European and American improvising styles. "The first thing I noticed in Chicago is how flat it is," says Dijkstra. "Whether this has an effect on the local musicians just as it had on me coming from the Netherlands, I'd like to find out with this project." The Collective also includes clarinetist James Falzone, trombonist Jeb Bishop, cellist Fred Lonberg-Holm, bassist Jason Roebeke, and drummer Tim Mulvanna. 8 p.m., *KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave.* \$10, \$15, & \$25 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

★**"Mirror Story": U-M School of Music.** December 9 & 10. World premiere of U-M performing arts technology professor Alicyn Warren's one-character electronic opera based on Ilse Aichinger's *Spiegelgeschichte*. As a young woman lies dying, her life, which has been marked by episodes of love gone wrong, flashes by in reverse chronological order. Stars University of Wisconsin voice professor Mimi Fulmer. 8 p.m., *U-M Duderstadt Center (formerly Media Union) Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel (next to Lurie Tower), North Campus*. Free, but ticket required. 764-0594.

★**Del McCoury Band: The Ark.** Straight-up bluegrass by this celebrated band known for the exquisite, interlocking precision and passionate restraint of its instrumental and vocal ensemble, and for the aching spirituality of McCoury's classically "high lonesome" vocals, which highlight what one critic calls "some of the best harmonies this side of the afterlife." The band's latest CD, *The Company We Keep*, is a collection of contemporary songs, 3 of them cowritten by McCoury and one by his son (and banjoist) Ronnie McCoury, that both root themselves in what McCoury calls "hardcore bluegrass" tradition and extend that tradition's musical range. 8 p.m., *The Ark, 316 S. Main*. Tickets \$22 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"The Great American Egg Nog Festival": Black-Bag Productions.** See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"Life with Father": P.T.D. Productions.** See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"The Sorcerer": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society.** See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"A Flea in Her Ear": U-M Theater Department.** See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"Barnum's Nightingale": U-M School of Music.** See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"The Glass Menagerie": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"The Improm": Dreamland Theater.** The local troupe *Vegan Meat Locker* hosts an evening of improv comedy with Detroit comics TBA. 8 p.m., *Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti*. \$5. 657-2337.

★**Tom Simmons: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 8 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"The Christma-Hana-Kwanzaa Holiday Spectacular": Improv Inferno.** See 2 Friday, 8 p.m.

★**"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno.** See 2 Friday, 10 p.m.

★**"The Mechanicals": Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater.** See 7 Wednesday, 11 p.m.

★**FILMS**

MTF. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday, Mich., times TBA.

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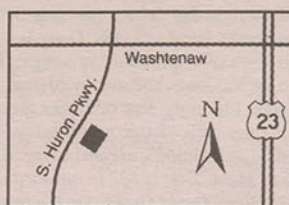
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EVENTS continued

## 10 SATURDAY

**★Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. 9 a.m.-noon, meeting location TBA. Free. 998-9540.

**"12th Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church.** Amble through a bazaar of hundreds of coconut joys, peanut blossoms, chocolate spritzes, cinnamon stars, almond crescents, Russian tea cakes, snickerdoodles, spice treats, festively decorated sugar cookies, and lots more. Select your own or prepackaged sets. Proceeds benefit mission work. 9 a.m.-noon, FUMC, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. 213-2330.

**Huron Gun Collectors.** December 10 & 11. Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Food concessions. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 10) & 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Dec. 11), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$4. (517) 605-0624.

**Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers.** December 10 & 11. A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church (back entrance), 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663-0362.

**★Pottery Show and Sale: Yourist Pottery.** Show and sale of decorative and functional ceramics that range from small teabag holders to exquisite raku works and large sculptural pieces. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 10) & noon-4 p.m. (Dec. 11), Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662-4914.

**Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library.** For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new. Also, a separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit 10 children's books per family). 10 a.m.-4 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 327-4211.

**★Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** December 10 & 13. Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a chance to make a colorful sheet of recycled paper using torn paper, water, and everyday household supplies. 10 a.m.-noon (Dec. 10) & 3-5 p.m. (Dec. 13), Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994-2807.

**"Winter Solstice Walk": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Kids ages 7-12 (accompanied by an adult) are invited to take a hike and do hands-on activities. Fee includes a Matthaei patch and a solstice activity book. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. \$6 per person. Preregistration required. 998-7061.

**★Dexter's Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 3 Saturday. Today's activities include the 3rd Fred Schmid Memorial Holiday Light Parade (10:30 a.m.), a downtown parade in which all floats are decked out in lights. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Dexter.

**★American Girl Club: Barnes & Noble.** All girls ages 8-12 invited to delve into the world of the American Girl collection of historical dolls. This month's discussion is *Kirsten's Surprise: A Christmas Story*, Janet Beeler Shaw's story about a 9-year-old girl eager to keep her Swedish traditions alive after her family moves to frontier Minnesota in 1854. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 973-0846.

**"Christmas at the Farmhouse": Rentschler Farm Museum: Saline Area Historical Society.** December 10 & 11. A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas at this century-old sheep farm, now a farm museum, currently festooned in 1930s-style holiday decorations. Refreshments and a gift shop stocked with rag rugs, collectibles, etched mugs, cake plates, bean soup mix, and more. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 10) & 1-4 p.m. (Dec. 11), Rentschler Farm, 7640 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Donation. 769-2219.

**"Pinocchio": EMU Theater of the Young.** See 3 Saturday. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

**★Holiday Tasting: Whole Foods Market.** December 10, 17, & 18. Whole Foods staff members at the festive Holiday Table discuss and distribute tasty tidbits (December 10 & 17) and Hanukkah treats (December 18). Q&A. Noon-4 p.m., Whole Foods, 3135



## rhythm & blues

### Bettye LaVette Finally!

Do you have any idea how lucky we are that Bettye LaVette is playing the Ark on Wednesday, December 7? Do you? I didn't think so.

All fall, this extraordinary, criminally unknown soul singer has been on tour in support of her new album, *I've Got My Own Hell to Raise*, selling out rooms across the country and in Paris, London, Vienna, and Amsterdam, appearing on Letterman, and selling more records in six weeks than her last record ever sold. For those who love LaVette and have for years, for those who've watched her career begin to soar over the last three years, for those who've watched her artistry continue to deepen and dare, one word echoes as the world takes notice: *finally*.

Born in Muskegon, raised in Detroit, and nursed on the blues, LaVette has lived a life of great opportunity, cavernous disappointment, and steady survival. She scored a hit with "My Man (He's a Lovin' Man)" when she was just sixteen. Got signed to labels, got dropped from labels, made records, had those records shelved for no good reason. Toured the country in *Bubbling Brown Sugar* opposite Cab Calloway. Had sporadic hits and near hits. It's all added up to a strangely bifurcated career. She's treated like royalty, mobbed, and clutched at in many parts of Europe, where Detroit soul music is seriously revered, and where audiences loudly demand their favorite Bettye LaVette songs and search the Internet for her early, rare releases. But mention her name to a stateside music lover and you're likely to get a furrowed brow and a distant look and "I think I know who you mean..."

But LaVette's riding a good track these days. Newly signed to the adventuresome Anti Records, she's made a stellar album of songs by women songwriters—everyone from Sinéad O'Connor to Joan Armatrading to Dolly Parton. (She sang Parton's "Little Sparrow" for the Letterman appearance and took the plaintive simplicity of the song to a startling intersection of wisdom and rage.)



She bravely personalizes Lucinda Williams's classic "Joy," filling it with the places of her own life: the Motor City, Muscle Shoals, even West Orange, New Jersey, where LaVette now lives with her husband, an art glass collector and blues musician. The band she tours with features some of Detroit's finest musicians: Bill Farris on guitar, Pat Prouty on bass, and Darryl Pierce on drums. And Ann Arbor's own Al Hill has been her musical director and keyboardist for the past three years.

When you see Bettye LaVette at the Ark, sit as close as you can. You don't just hear a LaVette song—you watch it. She interprets, inhabits, flays, and lays bare each phrase, each word. It's heavy stuff, not pretty at all, but beautiful, stunning. LaVette's like Lady Macbeth on Cass Avenue on a dark night. She walks through the hard stuff so we don't have to.

—Jenna Dixon

**"The Snow Queen in Seven Stories":** Dreamland Theater. December 10, 11, 17, & 18. Naia Venturi directs her original multimedia marionette show, based on stories by Hans Christian Andersen, about the friendship between a girl and boy. When a hobgoblin curses a mirror that breaks and cuts the boy, he becomes the prisoner of the Snow Queen, and his friend sets out to save him. Seating is limited; reservations recommended. 7 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$7 (kids 12 & under, \$5). 657-2337.

**"Bat Boy: The Musical":** U-M Basement Arts Theater. See 8 Wednesday, 7 p.m.

**Ballroom Dancing Night:** Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. 8-10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$4. 822-2120.

**2nd Saturday Contra Dance:** Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Don Theyken calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8. 332-9024.

**\*Student Chamber Music Recital:** U-M School of Music. Performances by U-M music students. 8 p.m., Stearns Building Cady Room, 2005 Baits. Free. 764-0594.

**\*Contemporary Directions Ensemble:** U-M School of Music. Andrew George directs this adventurous music-student ensemble in works by the rising-star composer David Lang, including the introspective *Sweet Air*, the syncopated *Press Release*, the tense *Increase*, *Dance/Drop*, *Hunk of Burnin' Love*, and *Birds of Minnesota*. "Unlike true minimalism, Lang's music does move forward and it does arrive—even if the arrival is enigmatic," says one critic. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

**Dianne Reeves: University Musical Society.** This Grammy-winning Detroit-born jazz vocalist is known for exciting live performances and a warm rapport with audiences, as well as for sprinkling anecdotes and reflections about the music between songs. Tonight's concert includes selections from Reeves's 2004 CD *Christmas Time Is Here*. *New York Times* critic Ben Ratliff, describing Reeves as a "jazz singer of frequently astonishing skill," calls the record "one of the best Christmas CDs I've heard." 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$48 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

**Ira Glass: Michigan Theater Foundation.** This award-winning NPR reporter from Chicago discusses and answers questions about *This American Life*, the offbeat syndicated weekly program he has hosted since 1996. Each week, the show takes a theme—immigrant parents, people who lead double lives, "fiascoes"—as the basis for an hour of stories, monologues, minidocumentaries, and other sometimes indescribable pieces for radio. The result is always intriguing, usually funny, and sometimes poignant or appalling. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$20-\$37 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS or (248) 645-6666.

**\*"Mirror Story":** U-M School of Music. See 9 Friday, 8 p.m.

**"The Great American Egg Nog Festival":** Black-Bag Productions. See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"Life with Father":** P.T.D. Productions. See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"A Flea in Her Ear":** U-M Theater Department. See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"The Sorcerer":** U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 8 Thursday, 2 & 8 p.m.

**"The Glass Menagerie":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Thursday, 3 & 8 p.m.

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"The Christma-Hana-Kwanzaa Holiday Spectacular":** Improv Inferno. See 2 Friday, 8 p.m.

**Tom Simmonds: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 8 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

**\*EMU Women's Chorus:** EMU Music Department. Ernest Brandon directs this EMU music-student choir in a program of seasonal music. 8:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

**Martin Sexton: The Ark.** Widely acclaimed young singer-songwriter from Boston known for bold, thoughtful original songs that blend elements of early jazz, blues, and ragtime with the mannerisms of 70s black pop, and for dynamic vocals that range from

Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975-4500.

**Handcraft Sale:** West Side United Methodist Church. A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans, including jewelry, baskets, woven items, and other fair-trade items. Noon-4 p.m. (Dec. 10) & 9 a.m.-noon (Dec. 11), West Side Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free admission. 663-4164.

**"Musicians of the Sun":** Wild Swan Theater. See 7 Wednesday, 2 p.m.

**"Barnum's Nightingale":** U-M School of Music. See 8 Thursday, 2 p.m.

**"The Nutcracker":** Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 9 Friday, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

**\*Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad:** U-M Women's Gymnastics. The U-M women's gymnastics team, which finished 5th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2005-2006 season with an intrasquad meet. 4 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

**\*"Holiday Concert":** Ann Arbor Music Center. Adult student blues, jazz, and rock bands perform music by Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Horace Silver, Howlin' Wolf, Albert King, Jimi Hendrix, Elmore James, Alice Cooper, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, and others. 4-7 p.m., Northfield Roadhouse, 50 E. North Territorial at Whitmore Lake Rd. Free. 945-6926.

**\*"Javanese Gamelan Music":** U-M Residential College. RC music students perform this traditional Javanese music played by an ensemble of gongs and metallophones, drums, strings, flute, xylophone, and singers. The music is a gorgeous concatenation of nonharmonic melodies built on cycles marked by the largest gong and subdivided by the other instruments.

4 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 276-4906.

**"Sing Along with Santa":** Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by local singer-actor Larry Henkel as Santa. Accompanists are AASO tubaist Carol Jantsch and AASO pianists Stephanie Lee Webb and Lori Zupan. WAAM radio host Lucy Ann Lance emcees. Refreshments follow the concert. 4-5 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$12 (children 12 & under, \$5; families, \$30; patrons, \$50) in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, and at the door. 994-4801.

**\*"Animania":** U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV series. Raffle. No one under 18 admitted without an adult. 4 p.m.-midnight, U-M Modern Languages Bldg., 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. umich.edu/animania.

**Book Sale:** St. Mary's Student Parish. Show and sale of adult and children's religious books. 5-6:30 p.m., (Dec. 10) & 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (Dec. 11), St. Mary's Newman Center, 331 Thompson. Free admission. 663-0557.

**\*Women's Glee Club:** U-M School of Music. Gabriela Hristova conducts the ensemble in works by Poulenc, Morley, Rautavaara, Brahms, Walker, Patrician, and Lane. 6 & 9:30 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-0594.

**\*U-M Wrestling vs. Cleveland State.** 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764-0247.

**Ska Fest 8: The Neutral Zone.** Performances by local and visiting ska bands After School Special, Skapocalypse Now, Plunket, Pseudo Strike, We Are the Union, and Mad Hot Dancehall. 7 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main. \$7. 214-9995.



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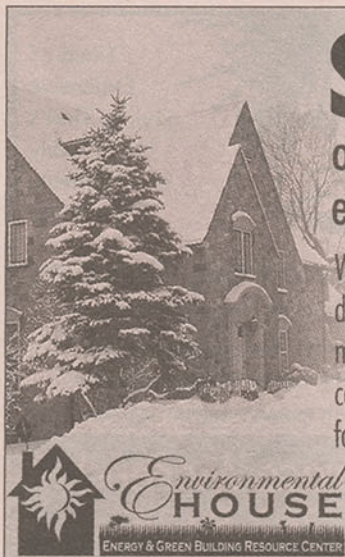


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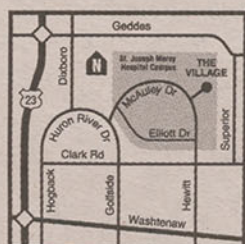
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10 SATURDAY continued

falsetto crooning to muted trumpet sounds. Sexton was a huge hit at the 1997 Ann Arbor Folk Festival, where he wowed the crowd not just with his songs but also with his virtuoso guitar work and some unamplified a cappella yodeling. He's currently showcasing material from his new CD, *Camp Holiday*, a collection of his interpretations of a varied array of holiday songs from "Silent Night" to "Blue Christmas." Note: A 7:30 p.m. show tonight is sold out. 10 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$22 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**Paradime: The Blind Pig.** Popular Detroit hip-hop ensemble led by Paradime, who is also the DJ for Kid Rock's shows. Opening acts are 87, a Detroit hip-hop MC, and The Purple Gang, a Detroit hip-hop ensemble. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

**"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno.** See 2 Friday. 10 p.m.

**"The Mechanicals": Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater.** See 7 Wednesday. 11 p.m.

## FILMS

MTE. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Center for Chinese Studies. "Ha Ha Shanghai" (Christine Choy, 2001). Documentary about the director's discovery of the nature of modern China when she returned to her native Shanghai in 1992 for the first time in 30 years to track down the title of her family's house and locate an old schoolmate. Mandarin, subtitles. No children under 12 admitted. FREE. 764-6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 8 p.m. "My American Grandson" (Ann Hui, 1991). A retired mainland Chinese teacher's patience is stretched by his hyperactive, spoiled American-born grandson, who doesn't respect his elders or the local culture. Mandarin, subtitles. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 8:30 p.m.

## 11 SUNDAY

**\*"6th Annual Tuba Christmas."** All invited to bring an instrument and a wire stand to join (or just listen to) an outdoor performance of holiday carols played on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of innumerable outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of tuba legend William Bell. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M music school begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available (\$10). Dress warmly. 10 a.m.-noon, S. State at North University. Free (performers, \$5). 972-4113.

**Holiday Gift Art Show on Blueberry Lane.** Show and sale of handmade books, metalwork, jewelry, cards, CDs, and art boxes by local artists Barbara Brown, Terri Sarris, Frank Pahl, Esther Kirshenbaum, and others. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 2559 Blueberry Lane. Free admission. 996-1420, 665-4671.

**\*Open House: Washtenaw County Historical Society Museum on Main Street.** A chance to view *The Sewing Arts*, the museum's current needlework exhibit. Also, at 2 p.m., a talk or demo by a speaker TBA. Noon-4 p.m., Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main. Free. 662-9092.

**41st Annual Community "Messiah" Sing.** All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by former longtime Pioneer High choral director Bob Pratt. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 12:15 p.m. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. 12:45 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Meg Gower at 433-0150.

**\*Jazz Holiday Showcase: School for the Performing Arts.** Students age 10 to adult perform in small jazz combos. 1-3 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free; donations accepted. 995-4625.

**\*Charles Sanders: Borders Express.** This writer signs copies of his *Tales of the Detroit Lions*. 2-4 p.m., Borders Express, Briarwood mall. Free. 669-0785.





Local favorite bluegrass quartet the RFD Boys perform at the Ark Dec. 16.

★**"On the Whitetail's Trail":** Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner gives a short slide talk on the whitetail, followed by a hike on the deer trails to look for signs of it. 2-3:30 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free, but registration required. (\$4 per vehicle park entry fee.) 971-6337.

★**Tours:** U-M Museum of Art. December 11 & 18. Docent-guided tour of UMMA exhibits. Today: Walker Evans and James Agee: *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*. Also this month: *Silk Road to Clipper Ship: Trade, Changing Markets, and East Asian Markets* (December 18). 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

★**"Aspects in Astrology":** Astrology Study Group of Washtenaw County. Local astrologer Bon Rose Fine discusses the relationships between the planets in your chart. 2-5 p.m., Crazy Wisdom community room, 114 S. Main. \$10. 434-4555.

★**"America's Musical Life: A History":** Ann Arbor District Library "Sunday Edition." U-M music professor emeritus Richard Crawford discusses his magisterial new history of American music. Signing. Copies of the book available for purchase. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 17. 2-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★**Shape Note Singing:** The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. 2-5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 747-9644, 761-1451.

★**Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. 2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971-6261, 485-5007.

★**Chamber Music Group:** U-M Residential College. Katri Ervamaa directs RC students in a varied program of chamber works by Beethoven, Sibelius, Gubaidulina, Schubert, Schumann, U-M music professor Evan Chambers, and others. 2 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

★**"Musicians of the Sun":** Wild Swan Theater. See 7 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Nutcracker":** Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 9 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Sorcerer":** U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Life with Father":** P.T.D. Productions. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"A Flea in Her Ear":** U-M Theater Department. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Glass Menagerie":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**Team USA:** USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 6 Tuesday. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Cleveland of the North American Hockey League. 3 p.m.

★**Christmas Concert:** Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer en-

semble in Leroy Anderson's popular *A Christmas Festival*, the "Waltz of the Flowers" from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, and other seasonal favorites. Also, a seasonal sing-along. 3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south of Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 426-2734.

★**"Holiday Pops: Songs of Love, Then and Now":** Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. Rebecca Vlisides directs this local chorus in a concert of holiday favorites. Accompanist is local pianist Gene Gaunt. 3 p.m., Slaucon Middle School, 1019 W. Washington. Donation. 994-2300, ext. 228.

★**"The Snow Queen in Seven Stories":** Dreamland Theater. See 10 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**"Dancing Christmas Carols":** Concordia University. Christian Dance Network founder Joan O'Connell leads singing and dancing to Christmas carols. No experience required. Followed by a reception with refreshments and live music by students from the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. 4 p.m., Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes. Tickets \$5 (kids 12 & under, \$3) in advance and at the door. 996-4612.

★**19th Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale.** Richard Ingram conducts 2 ensembles of talented local youth singers in a program that includes songs from Latvia, Austria, France, and Israel, the Catalan carol "One December Bright," and such seasonal favorites as "The Little Drummer Boy" and "Do You Hear What I Hear?" 4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Tickets \$7 (students & seniors, \$4) at the door only. 996-4404.

★**"A Venetian Christmas: Music from San Marco":** Vox Early Music Ensemble (Concordia University). Christopher Wolverton directs this Ann Arbor-based early-music chorus, an ensemble of professional singers from southeastern Michigan, Minnesota, and Colorado, in a program of Christmas music by masters of St. Mark's Basilica, the center of Venetian music during the Renaissance. The program is highlighted by *Missa Quæramus cum Pastoribus*, a work by the Venetian master Adrian Willaert that embodies the elegant sonorities characteristic of Venetian Renaissance music. Also, works by Gabrieli and Monteverdi and a colorful Italian Laude. The choir is accompanied by 2 guest artists, viola da gambist and Baroque cellist Debra Loneragan and organist John Repulski. In its review of Vox's CD, *Josquin and the Lost Generation*, the *Quarterly Journal of the American Library Association* identifies the source of the group's appeal as the "warmth and expressiveness of the singers" and the "creamy ensemble blend." The concert is preceded by a discussion of the program led by Oakland University music history professor David Kidger, an expert on the music of Willaert. 4 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, State at Kingsley. \$18 (seniors, \$12; students, \$5) at the door only. 944-0243.

★**Joel Hastings:** First Baptist Church. See 9 Friday. 4 p.m.

★**"Booked for Murder" Mystery Book Club:** Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss 2 murder mysteries with a Las Vegas theme, Michael Connelly's *Void Moon* and James Swain's *Grift Sense*. 4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 769-2149.

★**Chih-Long Hu:** U-M School of Music. This Taiwanese pianist discusses and plays examples of works from the solo piano repertoire. 5 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

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## classical music

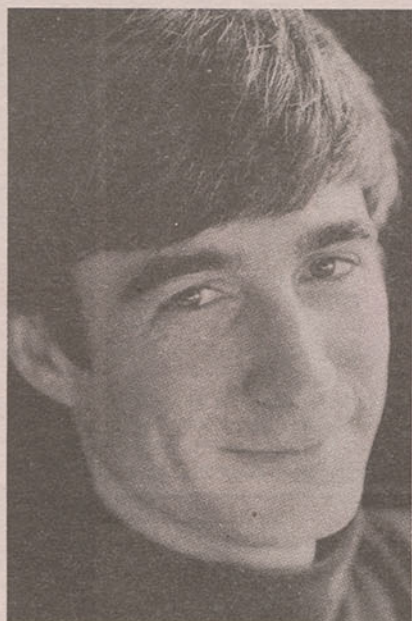
### Joel Hastings plays Chopin If he can do that well with Liszt...

Some folks can't stand the sound of fingernails on blackboards. Others can't stand the sound of breaking glass. Me, I can't stand the sound of the music of Franz Liszt. Take away its superhuman difficulty and extraordinary charisma, and what have you got? Music with more effects than causes, with more notes than meaning, with more sensibility than sense. It's music of incandescent banality, superficial profundity, and bone-deep vulgarity. It's music that, despite the best efforts of superhuman virtuosos with extraordinary charisma, hangs like a dead duck from the neck of Romantic music.

So when I say I wasn't looking forward to an all-Liszt recital, I mean I *really* wasn't looking forward to an all-Liszt recital. But what could I do? The pianist was a friend, and while I'd heard his disc—and it was bloody staggering—I'd never heard him live. I figured I'd check out the first half and leave at intermission. Forty-five minutes of Liszt would be more than enough for me.

Instead I stayed through the whole concert, because Joel Hastings's all-Liszt recital was absolutely stunning from the first note to the last. Hastings is a superhuman virtuoso with a massive sound and monumental technique. Hastings has extraordinary charisma that commands complete attention. But best of all, Hastings is a real musician, and his musicality makes an audience pay attention not to him but to the music he's playing.

But who'd have thought it could work even when the music he's playing was by Liszt? Fortunately the whole recital was made up of Liszt's arrangements, fantasies, paraphrases, potpourris, and what-have-yous of other composers' works. At least in the case of operas by Handel and Wagner and songs by Schumann and Schubert, the originals are first rate, and, as if in acknowledgment,



Liszt stays pretty close to them. Of course, in the case of operas by Donizetti, Tchaikovsky, and, to a lesser extent, Verdi, the originals are less than first-rate and less adaptable to the piano.

But, under Hastings's hands, it all worked. His performance of Liszt's more-or-less straight transcription of Wagner's *Liebestod* was especially transcendent. Through his control of balances and dynamics, through his command of tone color and pedaling, and especially through his imaginative, emotional, and even spiritual feel for the soul of the music, Hastings's performance achieved a kind of beatific rapture.

On Friday and Sunday, December 9 and 11, Joel Hastings will be playing Chopin's Etudes at First Baptist Church. If he can make glorious music with a fraudulent poet-aster like Liszt, imagine how he will fare with the true poet of the piano.

—James Leonard

### 11 SUNDAY continued

**Katherine Schell: Special Days Camps Benefit.** Bay City singer-songwriter and pianist whose "Rest Assured" won the 2005 VHI International Song of the Year Award. Her soulful, dreamily emotive songs blend alternative rock textures with both blues and classical structures. Opening act is **Brandon Wiard and His Army** (see review, p. 99), a quartet led by Wiard, a highly regarded local folk-flavored country-pop singer-songwriter who recently released a CD, *Painting a Burning Building*. Proceeds benefit Special Days, a camp in Jackson for children with cancer. 7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$10 (students, \$7) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. 763-TKTS.

**\*University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Andrew George directs this music-student ensemble in the Overture to Haydn's opera *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Webern's Passacaglia, Colgrass's *As Quiet As...*, and the Berceuse and Finale from Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*. 7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

**"A Holiday Collaboration": Measure for Measure and Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra.** Leonard Riccinto directs the local men's chorus Measure for Measure and the YSO in a program of holiday choral music in Latin, Yoruba, and English. Highlights include the traditional "O Holy Night," Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," Handel's "Hallelujah, Amen" from his oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus*, and a suite from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* ballet. 7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. \$18 (seniors, \$14; students \$7) in advance and at the door. 487-1221, 487-2282.

**32nd Annual Holiday Ragtime Bash: First Unitarian Universalist Church.** "Smiling sellout crowds," according to organizers, turn out every year for this feast of piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with

boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. Tonight's line-up of top-notch performers include the veteran husband-and-wife duo of pianist **Bill Bolcom** (also a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer) and mezzo-soprano **Joan Morris**, a duo of the River Raisin Ragtime Revue pianist **Edward Wyman** and cellist **Emily Stoops**, veteran Detroit blues pianist **Bob Seeley**, local ragtime pianist **John Remmers**, acclaimed ragtime historian **Mike Montgomery**, recent U-M grad Kent "Cannonball" **Eshelman**, and others. 7:30 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Tickets \$15 in advance at Nicola's Books and at the door. 665-6158.

**Ann Arbor Cantata Singers.** Warren Puffer Jones leads this polished semiprofessional local ensemble in a program of carols and settings of "O Magnum Mysterium" by Renaissance composers Tomas Luis de Victoria and Giovanni Gabrieli and modern composers Morten Lauridsen and Carl Rutti. The chorus is accompanied by the popular local **Galliard Brass Ensemble**, which also performs festive medleys of holiday favorites. 7:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$12) at the door only. 717-7095.

**Chris Knight: The Ark.** Fast-rising country-rock singer-songwriter from Kentucky whose fans include Willie Nelson. Often compared to Steve Earle or Townes Van Zandt, Knight writes laconic, cinematically vivid storysongs, usually about dark characters or shadowy emotions. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**2nd Friday Advanced English Dance.** Glen Morningstar calls English country dances, for experienced dancers, with music by Dr. Grangelove. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$10. (313) 665-7704.

## FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classic Series.** "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). Warmhearted yet often tartly satiric comedy about a boy in 1940s Indiana who wants nothing more for Christmas than a BB gun. Based on Jean Shepherd's humorous novel *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 3 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA.

## 12 MONDAY

**\*The Barony of Cynabar.** Every Monday except December 5. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on recreating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts & crafts. 7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at [cynabar.org](http://cynabar.org)

**\*"Show and Tell": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table.** Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War-related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.), Superior Twp. Free. 930-0617.

**"Songs We Like": Kerrytown Concert House.** A quartet of U-M musical theater grads—Mike Mosallam, Amanda Satchell, and Tony-nominated performers Gavin Creel and Celia Keenan-Bolger—present a program of cabaret and musical theater songs, performing solo and in various duets and trio combinations. This mellow concert is "like a group of 100 people sitting around at an old friend's house," notes Mosallam. Accompanist is pianist Eric Lofstrom. 7 & 9 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$15 in advance and at the door. 769-2999.

**\*Collegium Musicum: EMU Music Department.** Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra directs this student early-music ensemble in vocal and instrumental works by Italian Renaissance and Baroque composers. 8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

**\*Concert Band: U-M School of Music.** Steven Davis leads this music-student ensemble in Gabrieli's Canzona, Rosetti's Partita in D, Persichetti's Symphony for Band, Michael Colgrass's *Dream Dancer*, and Charles Ives's *Set*. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

## FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation.** "Interior Visions Film Series." "Memento" (Christopher Nolan, 2000). Engrossing story, told in reverse chronological order, of a man with no short-term memory who is trying to hunt down his wife's killer. Guy Pearce, Carrie-Anne Moss, Joe Pantoliano. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation.** "Saraband" (Ingmar Bergman, 2003). December 12, 14, & 15. Brilliantly and deeply drawn portrait of a dysfunctional family, a sequel to Bergman's 1971 *Scenes from a Marriage*. Liv Ullmann, Erland Josephson, Borje Ahlstedt. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA.

## 13 TUESDAY

**Distinguished Lecture Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** Fourth in a series of 9 monthly lectures by different U-M scholars. Open to anyone age 55 or older. Today: University Musical Society president Kenneth Fischer discusses "Behind the Green Door: Backstage Stories of World-Renowned Artists." 10-11:30 a.m., Best Western Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. \$50 (LIR members, \$30) for the 9-lecture series, \$25 (LIR members, \$10) per lecture. LIR memberships are \$15 a year. 998-9351.

**Group Drumming: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** All seniors invited to join a group drumming session to have some fun and learn about the health benefits of drumming. Drums provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. \$3. 998-9350.

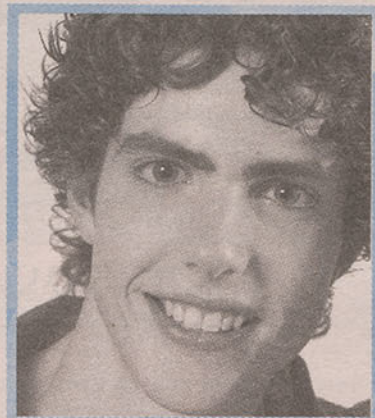
**U-M Women's Basketball vs. Fordham.** 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

**"Foods Ari Loves": Zingerman's Delicatessen.** Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of his favorite foods. 7-9 p.m., Zingerman's, 422 Detroit St. \$20. Reservations required. 663-3400.

**\*"Freshwaters of Belize": U-M Aquarium Society.** Screening of this gripping film about the secret life of cichlids, a family of tropical fish. "I have seen



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## 13 TUESDAY continued

this and it is awesome!" notes one local fish fan. 7 p.m., 2009 U-M Ruthven Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 274-1722.

★"Animanga Club for Teens": Ann Arbor District Library. All anime and manga fans in grades 6-12 invited to share their enthusiasm for these Japanese art forms, make recommendations for the AADL collections, and help plan future AADL manga events and anime screenings. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to discuss *Start Now! A Book of Soul and Spiritual Exercises*, Charles Bamford's collection of Rudolf Steiner's practical spiritual writings. 7-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★"Cover to Cover": Ann Arbor District Library. U-M grad student Joshua Lambert leads a discussion of *American Pastoral*, Philip Roth's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the collapse of the American immigrant dream of prosperous gentility in the face of the social and political challenges of the turbulent 60s. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

★Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department. All invited to a screening of the sci-fi movie *Alien*. Note: If attendance is large, the meeting will be moved to the Mary Markley conference room. Pizza provided. 7-9 p.m., 3184 Angell Hall. Free. Preregistration required at esrabkin@umich.edu. 764-2553.

★"The Case Against the Global Economy and for a Turn Toward the Local": Sierra Club Book Club. All invited to discuss Jerry Mander and Edward Goldsmith's book examining globalization and its ramifications. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 332-0207.

★Holiday Concert: Ypsilanti Community Band. Jerry Robbins directs this 50-member adult band, which is joined by the Ypsilanti Community Choir under Denise Zellner for a program of Christmas music. Members of the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti First United Methodist Church's handbell choirs join in for performances of "The Bells of Christmas" and "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The program also includes Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, Cavacas's *Christmas Music for Winds and Voices*, and *Stars and Stripes for Christmas*, a mingling of favorite marches and holiday songs. 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 697-3471.

★Slavic Vocal Literature Class Recital: U-M School of Music. Russian and Czech art songs and duets for voice and piano, performed by 10 student singers and 4 student pianists. 8 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Kenneth Kiesler conducts this music-student ensemble in a program highlighted by a performance of Bartok's Piano Concerto no. 2 featuring 2005 Concerto Competition winner Frank Chiou. Also, Shostakovich's Symphony no. 12 (1917), his ostensible tribute to Lenin. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy: The Ark. A jazz, blues, swing, and soul gumbo by this veteran New Orleans band led by vocalist Scotty Morris that helped ignite the 90s swing craze. The band's latest CD, *Save My Soul*, draws on the music of Professor Longhair, Fats Domino, Louis Armstrong, and New Orleans brass bands, and it features the world's first male-vocal version of the Blue Lu Barker classic "Don't You Feel My Leg." 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$30 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 6 Tuesday. 10 p.m.-midnight.

### FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series. "Holiday Inn" (Mark Sandrich, 1942). Featherweight story about a love triangle highlighted by Fred Astaire's astounding "firecracker dance." Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice" (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA.

## 14 WEDNESDAY

★"The New Medicare Prescription Drug Program: What's It Mean for You?": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by Catholic Social Services Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program coordinator

Barbara Zaret. 9:30-11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★"UK Presidency of the EU": U-M Center for European Studies/European Union Center. Talk by UK Consulate (Chicago) consul general Andrew Seaton. Noon, 1644 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

★Lunchtime Organ Recital: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. See 7 Wednesday. Today: Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church (Bloomfield Hills) organist Glenn Miller performs works by Buxtehude, Bach, and Hugo Distler. 12:15 p.m.

★Open House: The Neutral Zone. A chance to tour this teen center, chat with staff, and find out about its programs. 6:30-8 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main. Free. 214-9995.

★"Adventures with Native Plants": Wild Ones. Members give slide-illustrated talks about their projects. Also, a potluck (bring a dish and table service). 7 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens room 125. Free. 622-9997.

★Ann Arbor Magic Club. All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magical arts. 7 p.m., Georgetown Country Club, 1365 King George Blvd. Free. 482-9523.

★"What Every Woman Should Know about Achieving Financial Well-Being": People's Food Co-op. Talk by Ameriprise financial counselor Michael Stearns. 7-8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994-4589.

★"Herbs and Pregnancy": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local herbalist Linda Diane Feldt. 7-8:30 p.m., Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975-4500.

★Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club. All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. Legos Mindstorms robots and radio-controlled cars available for kids entertainment. 7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Jackson Rd., behind KFC). Free. 332-1000.

★"December Otakon for Manga and Anime Fans": Ann Arbor District Library. All manga fans in grades 6-12 invited to discuss and watch episodes of *Fruits Basket*, the pseudonymous Natsumi Takaya's manga that was serialized in the Japanese biweekly *Hana to Yume* and later adapted as a 26-episode anime series. Snacks. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327-8301.

★"The Environment": Women Progressive Activists. All invited to join a group discussion. 7 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence Blvd. Free. 662-1563.

★Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. See 7 Wednesday. Tonight: Cara Spindler, a local poet whose work, organizers say, "wryly observant and unexpected, slips along the edge of the uncanny, armed with a microscope and a camera." 7-9:30 p.m.

★"The Internet Radio Linking Project": Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club. All invited to join a discussion of this system that uses Internet voice technology to link amateur radio users. Preceded by "ragchewing and socializing" (7 p.m.). 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College, room TBA, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors (\$25 annual dues). 930-6564.

★Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of *On Beauty*, Zadie Smith's insightful comic novel, set on both sides of the Atlantic, about family life, the institution of marriage, and the intersection of the personal and the political. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. RC students perform excerpts from 2 contemporary plays that treat various dysfunctional aspects of American family bonds, Christopher Durang's *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* and Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*. 7:30 p.m., RC auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

★"Desperate Times Call for Desperate Pleasures" and "Burn This Boat": U-M School of Art & Design. Art grad student James Leija and visiting artist Andrea Maio perform 2 of their original performance art works-in-progress. *Desperate Times* is a witty, provocative exploration of the contemporary urban sexual landscape, and *Burn* is a set of stories concerning the Mississippi River. 7:30 p.m., U-M Duderstadt Media Center Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764-0397.

★"Weird Wednesday": Dreamland Theater. Monthly open stage for off-the-wall performance artists, screenings of short videos and films, monologists, comics, musicians, and what organizers call "other



## theater

### *The Glass Menagerie* Southern-fried dinner party from hell

Tennessee Williams is one of the few real proofs we have that life has improved in the last fifty years. He viewed the world through a lens of high Freudianism where not too many people could expect to escape a good warping from their repressed sexuality. When he yoked these emotional cripples to genteel southern poverty, he got some pretty riveting stuff back in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, but today you can be uncomfortably aware that most of his characters' problems could be solved by a few credit cards and access to reliable birth control.

Dated though his works sometimes seem, he was a brilliant playwright, and *The Glass Menagerie* at the Purple Rose is a reminder of what pure beauty can be wrought by four good actors and some floor space.

*Menagerie* is an American classic about a family on the way down. Two grown children and their mother are slowly going insane cooped up in a St. Louis tenement. The mother, Amanda (Michelle Mountain), lives in a dream world of dance cards, cotillions, and gentlemen callers, and her pathologically shy daughter, Laura (Molly Thomas), copes by counting and polishing her glass animal collection. Son Tom (Tom Whalen) is the only one who can hold a job, but it's menial, soul-killing factory labor, as he and his mother remind each other every few minutes or so, to make sure he doesn't escape the family curse of hopelessness.

Maybe it's just me, but I always see political undertones in this breakout early play by Williams (it premiered in 1944) that seemed to disappear in his later works. In a world that gave women of a certain class



very few options, a woman's ability to charm "gentleman callers" was not so much harmless southern fluff as a sound business plan. Amanda's mounting panic over her daughter's shrinking, manless world is not, Williams seems to suggest, entirely unjustified. I like the way Michelle Mountain does Amanda, as wily, fun, and loopy, until she's absolutely cornered. Molly Thomas gives dignity to the quiet, simple Laura. Tom Whalen, who must both play Tom Wingfield as a young man and look back and narrate the events from a distance, does it with light, ironic gallantry in counterpoint to the quiet claustrophobia of female existence. Ryan Carlson, the gentleman caller, who is summoned to a dinner party from hell, miraculously pulls a fully formed character out of a script that almost insists he be a cardboard cutout.

It's a fresh and original classic, running through Saturday, December 17.

—Sally Mitani

avant bards." Performers can sign up shortly before the show, 8 p.m., *Dreamland Theater*, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Donation, 834-1782.

**"Jubilant!":** Vocal Arts Ensemble. Ben Cohen leads this local a cappella chorus in a program that includes "In Dulci Jubilo," "Deck the Halls," "In the Bleak Midwinter," the Bach motet "Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden," Steve Barnett's *Hanukkah Suite*, and Ben Cohen's arrangement of the Jewish folksong "Tena." 8 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$5; kids 12 & under, free) at the door only. 747-8759.

**Kristin Hersh: The Ark.** The longtime lead singer of the eccentric postpunk band Throwing Muses, Hersh has won fresh attention and widespread acclaim since going solo. Her music blends a fetching melodicism with open-ended, often complex structures, and with its demented intensity and suggestion of multiple personalities, her singing makes her sound like a female Gordon Gano. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**"The Glass Menagerie":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"The Wild Card":** Improv Inferno. See 7 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

**"Comedy Jamm Night":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Every Wednesday except December 7. Performances by aspiring stand-up comics and by established area pros coming out to work on new material. The show concludes with a performance by the

improv troupe **Beer Money**. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

**"The Mechanicals":** Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater. See 7 Wednesday, 11 p.m.

#### FILMS

MTF. **"Pride and Prejudice"** (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday. Mich., times TBA. **"Saraband"** (Ingmar Bergman, 2003). See 12 Monday. Mich., times TBA.

### 15 THURSDAY

**★"TLC for Indoor Plants":** International Neighbors. Master gardener Carol Brodbeck shares her secrets for keeping houseplants healthy. Q&A. All area women invited. International Neighbors is a 47-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. 9:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 996-2912.

**"Sprouts! Winter Wonderland":** U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Preschoolers (accompanied by an adult) are invited to make a pinecone bird feeder, take a hike, hear a story, and sip hot chocolate. 10-11 a.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. \$8 (members, \$7.50) per child. Preregistration required. 998-7061.

**★Play Reading Group: Jewish Community Center.** Local playwright-actress Rachel Urist hosts an improvised staged reading of a play TBA. 2-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

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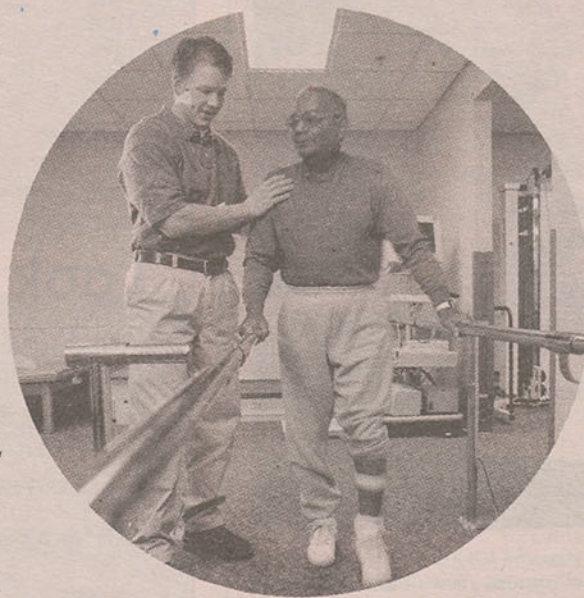
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15 THURSDAY *continued*

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. 7-9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975-4669.

★**"Cheap Tricks, Channing, and Coca-Cola: Backstage with Director/Actor/Playwright John Neville-Andrews":** Ann Arbor District Library. U-M theater professor and Michigan Shakespeare Festival artistic director Neville-Andrews discusses entertaining highlights and misadventures of the Broadway, Off-Broadway, and touring career that began when he came to this country as coauthor, director, and actor with *El Grande de Coca-Cola*, which won a Drama Desk Award for Best Musical in 1972. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★**"Stars Onstage: A Benefit Concert for Children":** Washtenaw Community College Performing Arts Department. Performances by dance students from WCC and Spotlight Studio LLC in Pinckney, interspersed with performances by the WCC Jazz Orchestra. Proceeds benefit the children in the U-M Mott Hospital. 7 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 Huron River Dr. Donation or a new, unwrapped gift. 677-5090.

★**Winter Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School.** Marijean Quigley-Young conducts the Chamber, Symphony, and Philharmonic orchestras. Programs TBA. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium Blvd. Free. 994-2120.

★**Cynnabar Collegium Choir.** This local a cappella choir, dressed in medieval attire, performs early and traditional holiday carols. Followed by dessert. 7:30 p.m., U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, suite C, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9350.

**Local Music Showcase: Dreamland Theater.** Double bill featuring "raptabulous break-dance freedom trash" by Narwhals Collide and electronic music by Ronen Goldstein who performs on electronic instruments and kids' toys that he's disassembled and tweaked so as to produce odd sounds. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Donation. 657-2337.

**Rachel Price: Firefly Club.** Jazz trio led by this highly regarded 19-year-old jazz singer, a New England Conservatory student whose vocal style and repertoire reflect the influences of the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, and Doris Day. "The best young voice I've heard, period. No one around can even touch her voice and style—a style all her own," says singer-actress Kathryn Grayson. 8 & 10 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$10 in advance and at the door. 665-9090.

★**"Calypso Christmas": Trinidad Tripoli Steelband (The Ark).** See review, p. 103. Traditional Christmas music transformed into sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble founded shortly after WW II by Hugh Borde and currently composed of Borde and several members of his family. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Life with Father": P.T.D. Productions.** See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"The Glass Menagerie": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**Maria Bamford: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** December 15-17. Highly regarded young comic who specializes in slapstick stories with an acerbic edge told in a deceptively soft, almost mousy voice that accentuates her rapid-fire mimicry of the characters in her story. A frequent guest on cable and network TV, she's also been featured in several films, including a role as John Travolta's wife in *Lucky Numbers*. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

★**"The Catfight": Improv Inferno.** See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"High Octane": Improv Inferno.** See 8 Thursday, 10 p.m.

★**"The Mechanicals": Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater.** See 7 Wednesday, 11 p.m.

### FILMS

MTF. **"Pride and Prejudice"** (Joe Wright, 2005). See 1 Thursday, Mich., times TBA. **"Saraband"** (Ingmar Bergman, 2003). Mich., times TBA.



## singer-songwriters

### Brandon Wiard The road to genius

I have enough respect for the word *genius* not to toss it out casually when talking about local bands. Ray Charles was a genius, and so was John Lennon, and maybe Phil Spector was during the golden age of 1960s three-minute pop tunes, but it seems kind of silly to use the G word in talking about music that comes from around the corner or down the block. Brandon Wiard, the amazingly talented twenty-something local pop songwriter and musician, may not be quite at the genius stage yet, but he's surely driving a fast sports car down the musical road toward it.

If your point of reference is a few decades in the past, you'll recognize hints of Lennon and Brian Wilson and Alex Chilton in his voice and in his style. Short, cleverly structured pop classics are his cup of tea, with enough layered quirkiness to keep you surprised. There is a bit of Elvis Costello and Wilco or Apples in Stereo floating around too, so everything he writes is a mix of old and new, or a slightly off-center conjunction of strangeness and familiarity.

On his latest recording, *Painting a Burning Building*, Wiard aims high and tries to beat Brian Wilson at the *Smiley Smile* / *Pet Sounds* game. Layers of guitars, voices, and keyboards fill up dozens of tracks, with lots of string parts adding to the fun. While his voice is a bit melodically flat and tense, his lyrics are clever and simple, focusing on the horror stories of loneliness and heartbreak. The record raises the stakes, because it's an attempt to make a classic rock record. And Wiard pulls it off really well.

As the Beatles figured out after making *Sgt. Pepper*, there is sometimes a battle be-

tween being great in the studio and reproducing a record note-for-note on stage. Wiard is smart enough not to make that attempt when playing a gig; he focuses on the cool underlying songs instead. When I caught the band last spring at Crazy Wisdom, where he was experimenting with bringing his five-piece band into an acoustic setting, the gamble paid off wonderfully. With the amps turned down low, so the double latte sippers wouldn't be too blown away by the volume, Wiard presented stripped-down versions of his tunes in a more laid-back fashion.

When you take away the tape loops, the overdubs, the wall-of-sound magic Wiard pulls off in the record-making setting, you can hear what a truly amazing songwriter he is. Tunes like the guitar rocker "Since You've Gone Away" and the beautifully sweet Paul McCartney-like ballad "Caroline" are indications of Wiard's immense potential.

Brandon Wiard opens for Katherine Schell at the Michigan Theater on Sunday, December 11.

—Alan Goldsmith



**Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners.** See 2 Friday, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

**Phil DeGreg: The Firefly Club.** Straight-ahead jazz by this trio led by University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music piano professor DeGreg, who performs warm, bracing, hard-swinging brands of hard bop and postbop. His repertoire ranges from standards to obscure gems and originals. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., *Firefly Club*, 207 S. Ashley. \$10 in advance and at the door. 665-9090.

**"The Christma-Hana-Kwanzaa Holiday Spectacular": Improv Inferno.** See 2 Friday, 8 p.m.

**"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno.** See 2 Friday, 10 p.m.

**"The Mechanicals": Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater.** See 7 Wednesday, 11 p.m.

#### FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation. "Paradise Now"** (Hany Abu-Assad, 2005). December 16-22. Portrait of 2 ordinary men who become terrorists. Arabic, subtitles. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

### 17 SATURDAY

**59th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society.** The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into 8 regions that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small (\$5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird*. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening, 6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Nancy French at 994-8418. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeyer at 663-9746 or 665-7427.

**U-M Men's Basketball vs. UCLA.** Noon, Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

**★Super Smash Brothers Mario Kart Grand Championship Tournament: Ann Arbor District Library.** High-ranking contestants from the last 4 monthly tournaments for kids in grades 6-12 compete today for the grand championship. A short wildcard tournament is held at noon to give newcomers a chance to make it to the championship. Mario Kart is a popular auto racing video game. Noon-5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

**"Holiday of Light": Performance Network Children's Theater Network.** Interactive storytelling program by popular local storyteller LaRon Williams, a specialist in African American stories who uses a wide range of dialects, gestures, and facial expressions to conjure all sorts of human, animal, and supernatural characters. He often accompanies his stories on African and African American folk instruments, and his repertoire includes folk, literary, historical, and musical tales. 2 p.m., *Performance Network*, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$10 (youth 16 & under, \$7) in advance at [performancenetwork.org](http://performancenetwork.org) & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663-0681.

**★Matinee Dance: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All senior singles and couples age 50 & older invited to dance to recorded music from the 30s, 40s, & 50s. Casual attire. Refreshments. Preceded at 1:30 p.m. by lessons. 2-3:30 p.m., *Ann Arbor Senior Center*, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

**★Annual Youth Orchestra Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Performances by students in 3 of the school's youth orchestras. Also, students from the school's chamber music program perform in the lobby. 3 p.m., *Michigan Theater*. Free; donations accepted. 995-4625.

**"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor.** Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 32 boys in its 19th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The featured work is Randall Thompson's *The Place of the Blest*, a suite of 4 settings of poetry by Robert Herrick and Richard Wilbur. It is accompanied by a small chamber orchestra. The program also includes David Willcocks's arrangements of "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful," the energetic Re-

### 16 FRIDAY

**★Open House: Arts in Motion Dance Studio.** Highlighted by a dance concert with performances by Arts in Motion students in a variety of dance forms, including ballet, jazz, hip-hop, ballroom, musical theater, and more. Also, a chance to meet Arts in Motion teachers. 5:30-9 p.m., *Arts in Motion*, 2839 Boardwalk. Free. 646-9417.

**★Mario Kart Tournament: Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults age 18 & older to compete in a tournament of this popular auto racing video game. Prizes. Refreshments. 6-9 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

**"Friday Night Live": Ann Arbor Parks Youth Outreach Program.** Supervised dance party for middle (7-9:30 p.m.) and high school (9:30 p.m.-midnight) students. DJs play a variety of current R&B, rock, rap, and pop. 7 p.m.-midnight, *Cobblestone Farm Barn*, 2781 Packard. \$3. 997-1615.

**"The Three Musketeers": Young Actors Guild.** December 16-18. Sue Roe directs local young actors in an adaptation of Alexander Dumas's swashbuckling tale full of swordfight, adventure, romance, wild antics, and intrigue. 7:30 p.m., *Lydia Mendelssohn Theater*. Tickets \$10 (11 & under, \$8) in advance and at the door. 913-9800.

**Don Theyken's Birthday Contra Dance.** Advanced contra dancing with callers and musicians TBA. 8 p.m., *Pittsfield Grange*, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$5. 665-8863.

**Everyone a Pope: Canterbury House.** Trumpeter Ross Huff leads this jazz fusion ensemble of former and current members of the U-M music school Creative Arts Orchestra in a program of standards, original compositions, and improvisations. 8 p.m., *Canterbury House*, 721 E. Huron. \$5-\$10 donation. 764-3162.

**RFD Boys: The Ark.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. \$11 (students, seniors, & members, \$10) at the door only. 761-1451.

**"Life with Father": P.T.D. Productions.** See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"The Glass Menagerie": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"Improv with the Vegans": Dreamland Theater.** Members of the local troupe *Vegan Meat Locker* perform improv comedy based on audience suggestions. 8 p.m., *Dreamland Theater*, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$5. 657-2337.

**21st Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater.** December 16-18. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. The score is performed live by the *Michigan Sinfonietta*, conducted by Leo Najjar. 8 p.m., *Power Center*. Tickets \$24 (students & seniors, \$20; kids 12 & under, \$14) available in advance at the *Michigan Union Ticket Office* and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**Maria Bamford: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 15 Thursday, 8 p.m.

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17 SATURDAY continued

naissance carol "Gaudete!" (with handbell choir), and the stirring Renaissance hymn "Personent hodie." The boy singers are supplemented by Cantabile, which provides the lower choral parts. The Boychoir's new 24-voice ensemble of boys ages 11-18 that includes both changed and unchanged voices. Cantabile also performs a couple-pieces on its own. The Boychoir's 13-member Preparatory Choir performs Alfred Burt's "Caroling, caroling" and "The Little Drummer Boy." The choirs are accompanied on St. Andrew's 33-rank Reuter organ by National Shrine of the Little Flower (Royal Oak) organist and choirmaster Charles Kennedy. Sale of the Boychoir Christmas CD. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. 3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10; youths 17 & under, \$5) in advance at aabochoir.org and at the door. 663-5377.

**"Family Latke Hop":** Jewish Community Center. Dinner, with dancing to live music, kids games and craft activities, and a community candle lighting ceremony. 6-9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Admission: \$14 (kids, \$7) for nonmembers, \$12 (kids, \$6) for members. \$1 discount for payment before December 14. Reservations requested. 971-0990.

**"Pastorela Mexicana":** Teatro Latino. The local Alebrije Group performs, in Spanish, this traditional Mexican Christmas play, a comedy about Lucifer's efforts, on the eve of the birth of Christ, to stop an event that will rob him of his world. This family-oriented program also features a pinata and other traditional Mexican Christmas activities. 6-10 p.m., First Methodist Church, 209 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti. Donation. 330-1890, 223-2772.

**\*Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad:** U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 4th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2005-2006 season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

**U-M Women's Basketball vs. Nebraska.** 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

**"The Snow Queen in Seven Stories":** Dreamland Theater. See 10 Saturday. 7 p.m.

**"The Three Musketeers":** Young Actors Guild. See 16 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

**3rd Saturday Contra Dance:** Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Peter Baker and Robin Warner call to music by musicians TBA. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes, and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded by a free jam for all musicians (3-6 p.m., 769-4220). 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8. 665-8863.

**"Female Songwriters Showcase":** Johnny's Speakeasy. House concert featuring Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Lisa Pappas, and other local and area female singer-songwriters. 8 p.m., location TBA. Donation. Reservations required. 222-1799.

**Joel Mabus: The Ark.** This MSU grad is regarded by his peers as one of the hottest pickers on the folk circuit. A virtuoso on guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, Mabus is also an excellent songwriter, known for his trenchant humor and eclectic "folkabilly" style. "Mabus is everything a modern string player should be—versatile, innovative, tasty, and funny," says Martin Keller of the *Twin Cities Reader*. His 1997 CD *Western Passage* is an all-instrumental suite for solo guitar that blends 19th-century American folk melodies with original tunes. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**21st Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet:** Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 16 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

**"Life with Father":** P.T.D. Productions. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"The Glass Menagerie":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"The Christmas-Hana-Kwanzaa Holiday Spectacular":** Improv Inferno. See 2 Friday. 8 p.m.

**Maria Bamford: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 15 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"Damnation Game":** Improv Inferno. See 2 Friday. 10 p.m.

**"The Mechanicals":** Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater. See 7 Wednesday. 11 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Paradise Now" (Hany Abu-Assad, 2005). See 16 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

## 18 SUNDAY

**\*Hanukkah Party:** Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Games, craft activities, and latkes & doughnuts. Concludes with the traditional lighting of the menorah. Also, a Hanukkah bazaar featuring sale of dreidels, gelt, candles, toys, and decorations. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

**Pre-K Hanukkah Program:** Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Haverah. Songs, craft activities, and a snack for families with toddlers age 5 & under. All invited. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 (members, free). Preregistration required. 913-9705.

**\*"Unwrapping the Gift of Good Health":** First Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Talk by local nutritionist Judy Stone, author of *Take Two Apples and Call Me in the Morning*. 12:45 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 665-6158.

**"Frosty on Ice":** Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Frosty the Snowman in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. 1-2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$5 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$4). Skate rentals available (\$3). 761-7240.

**"A Christmas Carol":** Theaterworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation "Not Just for Kids" Series). This renowned New York City-based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present its new musical adaptation of Dickens's Christmas classic. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$12 (MTF members, \$10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**\*"Dignity":** Parents, Friends, & Families of Lesbians & Gays. Talk by Dignity Detroit Council vice-president Steve White. 2-5 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 741-0659.

**\*"Therapaws Paws to Read":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K-5 (accompanied by a parent or guardian) are invited to read one-on-one for 10 minutes to a dog that's been trained by Intermountain Therapy to help improve kids' reading skills by behaving as if it is interested in being read to. Appointments required. 2-4 p.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William, and Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. Preregistration required. 327-8301.

**Family Dance:** Pittsfield Union Grange. John Freeman and David Park call dances and lead party games. Live music by David West, Donna Baird, and Mark Williams. 2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$6 (family, \$12). 665-8863.

**"The Nutcracker":** Dance Alliance Repertory Company. Lisa Darby Clark directs local youth dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in a production of the beloved Christmas Tchaikovsky ballet based on an E. T. A. Hoffmann story about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. 2 & 7 p.m., Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy. (off Industrial, north from E. Michigan), Saline. Tickets \$10 available in advance at Dancer's Boutique in Ann Arbor & by phone, and at the door. 429-9599.

**21st Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet:** Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 16 Friday. 2 p.m.

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

**"The Three Musketeers":** Young Actors Guild. See 16 Friday. 2 p.m.

**"The Snow Queen in Seven Stories":** Dreamland Theater. See 10 Saturday. 3 p.m.

**"A Baroque Holiday":** Michigan Chamber Brass. Guest conductor Clark Suttle leads this local brass quintet in a program of works by Michael Praetorius, J. S. Bach, Tchaikovsky, and John Rutter. 4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Cost TBA. 485-2902.

**\*Christmas Festival:** Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America. All invited to join in singing around a candlelit tree. Refreshments, socializing. 5-7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 971-6217.

**\*Living Nativity:** First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. December 18, 19, & 20. Nativity tableau featuring live animals, people in period costume, and



recorded music. Also, carol singing and animal petting. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m., *First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti*, 1110 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free. 485-4699.

**Bohola: The Ark.** Chicago area quartet that plays a muscular, gritty brand of traditional Irish music. "Bohola is an acoustic power trio for the new century, a group whose instrumental virtuosity, strong vocals, and stunning arrangements place them at the leading edge of today's traditional music scene," says the *Irish Voice*. 7:30 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

#### FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series.** "Meet Me in St. Louis" (Vincente Minnelli, 1944). Nostalgic musical about the joys of family life. Judy Garland. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 3 p.m. "Paradise Now" (Hany Abu-Assad, 2005). See 16 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

### 19 MONDAY

**\*Embroiderers' Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. 6:45 p.m., *First Presbyterian Church*, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 426-3903.

**\*"On Meditation and Practice":** Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry. Talk by Deep Spring guiding teacher Barbara Brodsky. Followed by Q&A and discussion. 7:30 p.m., *Deep Spring Center*, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477-5848.

**4th Annual Ann Arbor Musicians for Peace Benefit Concert: The Ark.** Several local folk, rock, and roots bands and singer-songwriters perform their own and others' antiwar and peace songs. Performers include singer-songwriters Chris Buhalis, Dick Siegel, Dave Boutette, Jo Serrapere, Jay Stielstra, Annie Capps, Annie Gallup, Whit Hill, Paul Lippens, and Tony Morgan, and the bands *Hullabaloo*, the *Hummingbirds*, *Phillis & the Left Sidemen*, *FUBAR*, and *Mustard's Retreat*. Also, storyteller *LaRon Williams*. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace. 7:30 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

#### FILMS

MTF. "Paradise Now" (Hany Abu-Assad, 2005). See 16 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

### 20 TUESDAY

**\*"Winter Solstice Celebration."** Local drummer Lori Fithian leads an exuberant drum circle. Bring a drum or borrow one of hers. No experience necessary. 7-9 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom Bookstore*, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

**SpiritSisters Women's Circle.** All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Bring divination tools, if you like. 7 p.m., *Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church*, 2309 Packard. \$3. 741-0478.

**"Steppin' Out with Civic: Civic Does Sinatra":** Ann Arbor Civic Theater. December 20 & 21. Curt Waugh directs Civic Theater singer actors in this program of songs associated with Frank Sinatra. Proceeds benefit the AACT. 7 p.m., *Firefly Club*, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$15 in advance at the Ann Arbor Civic Theater, and at the door. 971-2228.

**\*"Great Nature Trips from Around the Globe":** Sierra Club Annual Newcomers' Meeting. Slide-illustrated short talks by club members. All invited. Preceded by a potluck (6:30 p.m.; bring a dish to pass and table service). 7:30 p.m., *U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens*, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 615-0516.

**"Tuesday Tickler":** The Heidelberg Club Above. See 6 Tuesday. 10 p.m.-midnight.

#### FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series.** "Miracle on 34th Street" (George Seaton, 1947). Heartwarming comedy about an amiable old man working as a department store Santa who ends up in court on trial for insanity when he tells a skeptical young girl that he's the real thing. Edmund Gwenn, Natalie Wood, Maureen O'Hara. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. "Paradise Now" (Hany Abu-Assad, 2005). See 16 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

### 21 WEDNESDAY

**\*Lunchtime Organ Recital: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** See 7 Wednesday. Today: National

Shrine of the Little Flower (Royal Oak) organist Charles Kennedy performs works by Anton Heiller, Andre Fleury, Marius Monnikendam, and Charles-Marie Widor. 12:15 p.m.

**\*Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening, which tonight features **Christmas stories**, is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. Also, socializing. 7:30 p.m., 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations are accepted. 971-3455.

**"Steppin' Out with Civic: Civic Does Sinatra":** Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 20 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

**"The Wild Card":** Improv Inferno. See 7 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

**"Comedy Jamm Night":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

#### FILMS

MTF. "Paradise Now" (Hany Abu-Assad, 2005). See 16 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

### 22 THURSDAY

**U-M Men's Basketball vs. Miami (Ohio).** 7 p.m., *Crisler Arena*. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

**\*"Menopause":** People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. 7-8:30 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room*, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994-4589.

**"Home for the Holidays":** Three Men and a Tenor. The high-energy vocal quartet of MSU alums Chuck Colby, Mark Stiles, Paul Felch, and Glenn Williams (he's the tenor) performs everything from originals to Gregorian chant, barbershop, contemporary pop, and rap, with frequent costume changes to accentuate the mood. The group has performed with everyone ranging from Chuck Berry to Dionne Warwick and charmed audiences of all ages. A benefit for Habitat for Humanity. 7:30 p.m., *Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium*, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Tickets \$20 & \$35 in advance at *threemenandatenor.com* & at *Busch's*, and at the door. 213-5292.

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**Stunt Johnson Theater: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** December 22 & 23. Comedy sketches by this veteran local ensemble that was featured on *America's Funniest People*. Blending Monty Python with the Three Stooges, the troupe is known for its fresh, irreverent material and antic, sometimes raucous sense of humor. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are non-smoking shows. 8 & 10:30 p.m., *old VFW Hall* (below *Seva restaurant*), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 (Thurs.) & \$8 (Fri.) reserved seating in advance, \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

**"The Catfight":** Improv Inferno. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"High Octane":** Improv Inferno. See 8 Thursday. 10 p.m.

#### FILMS

MTF. "Paradise Now" (Hany Abu-Assad, 2005). See 16 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

### 23 FRIDAY

**"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**Stunt Johnson Theater: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 22 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

**"The Christmas-Hana-Kwanzaa Holiday Spectacular":** Improv Inferno. See 2 Friday. 8 p.m.

**"Damnation Game":** Improv Inferno. See 2 Friday. 10 p.m.

#### FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation.** "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" (Jane Anderson, 2005). December 23-29. Portrait of a tough, resolute mom who supports a family headed by a violent alcoholic by entering prize contests. Julianne Moore, Woody Harrelson, Laura Dern. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

### 24 SATURDAY

**"Marathon Skate":** Ann Arbor Parks Department. December 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ, for adults (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) & youths (1:15-5 p.m.). 11 a.m., *Veterans Ice Arena*, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). Skate rentals available (\$3). 761-7240.

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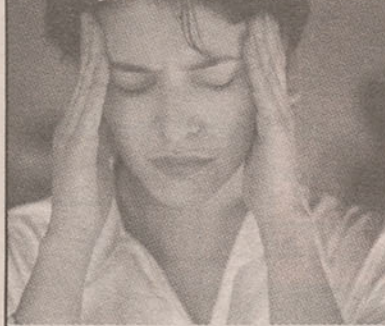
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## 24 SATURDAY continued

★**Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of Scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's chancel choir and the Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. 5, 7:30, & 11 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

★**Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663-9376.

★**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol: Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in a program of Christmas carols, anthems, and other music in candlelight. 10 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

### FILMS

MTF. "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" (Jane Anderson, 2005). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

## 25 SUNDAY (Christmas)

### FILMS

MTF. "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" (Jane Anderson, 2005). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Temple Beth Emeth. "The Prince of Egypt" (Brenda Chapman, 1998). An Animated feature about the Egyptian prince who learns about his Hebrew heritage and his destiny to become the deliverer of his people. Features Val Kilmer as the voices of Moses and of God. Tickets \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. 665-4744. Michigan Theater, 10:30 a.m.

## 26 MONDAY

★**Mario Kart Tournament: Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 1-5 invited to compete in a tournament of this popular auto racing video game. Prizes. 1-4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Come Out and Play": Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project.** All invited to bring their favorite card or board game to play. 7-9 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 995-9867.

### FILMS

MTF. "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" (Jane Anderson, 2005). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

## 27 TUESDAY

★**"Snowy Day Crafts": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activities for kids age 3 & up. Note: This program is also offered at the Malletts Creek branch on December 29 (11 a.m.-noon) and, on a drop-in basis, at the West (December 27, 2-4 p.m.) and Northeast (December 29, 2-4 p.m.) branches. 11 a.m.-noon, AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Preregistration required. 327-8301 (main), 327-4200 (branches).

★**Mario Kart and Dance Dance Revolution Open Play: Ann Arbor District Library.** December 27 & 28. All invited to play the popular auto racing video game Mario Kart or the computer-guided movement game Dance Dance Revolution. Refreshments. Noon-6 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

Dinner Dance: Tuesday Night Dancers. Ballroom dancing to live music by the Mike Wolverton Band. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dinner. No jeans. 8-10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. \$17 in advance only. (517) 787-6367, (517) 592-5771.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 6 Tuesday. 10 p.m.-midnight.

### FILMS

MTF. "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" (Jane Anderson, 2005). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

## 28 WEDNESDAY

★**"Adventures in Reading with Doug Scheer—the Science Guy": Ann Arbor District Library.** Award-winning Michigan educational entertainer Doug Scheer presents an interactive program exploring the rewards of reading that features a zany mix of magic, puppets, contests, and more. 10-11 a.m. & 1-2 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower

(between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Coppin State. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

"The Wild Card": Improv Inferno. See 7 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

### FILMS

MTF. "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" (Jane Anderson, 2005). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

## 29 THURSDAY

★**"Dance Dance Revolution Tournament": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to try their skill in this computer-guided movement game. Prizes. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m. (grades 6-12) & 6-9 p.m. (all ages), AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. December 29 & 30. 2 evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance headlined by Irish fiddler Brian Conway, the foremost exponent of the "Sligo-New York style" of Irish fiddle. He is joined by the renowned piano accompanist Barbara Mangone. Also, traditional Irish dancer Nick Gareiss, who is joined by Detroit-area step dancers, along with young fiddlers from Mike Gavin's School of Music, other area Irish musicians, and surprise guests TBA. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Local Music Showcase: Dreamland Theater. Triple bill featuring the moody, Doors-influenced rock band Bam, local singer-songwriter Almus Magnus, and Slow Children at Play, a psychedelic band whose instrumentation includes theremin, synthesizer, keyboards, guitar, and the "bello," a cross between a bass and a cello. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Donation. 657-2337.

Keith Ruff: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 29 & 30. This up-and-coming Detroit-area African American comic is known for his crisp, clever, slightly twisted topical commentary and for his high-spirited, often whimsical performing style. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 (Thurs.) & \$8 (Fri.) reserved seating in advance, \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

"The Catfight": Improv Inferno. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"High Octane": Improv Inferno. See 8 Thursday. 10 p.m.

### FILMS

MTF. "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" (Jane Anderson, 2005). See 23 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

## 30 FRIDAY

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. See 29 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Keith Ruff: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 29 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Joe Weaver & R.J.'s Rhythm Rockers: The Firefly Club. A veteran Detroit R&B singer-pianist, Weaver is a former member of the Blue Note Orchestra that backed the likes of John Lee Hooker, Little Willie John, and Dinah Washington in the 50s and 60s. He began working for Motown acts in the mid-60s, but when Motown moved to L.A., Weaver dropped out of music and took a job with Ford. He resumed his career after a 30-year hiatus when he retired from Ford in 2002. He's currently performing regularly with the Rhythm Rockers, a swinging Detroit blues band led by drummer R. J. Spangler. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$10 in advance and at the door. 665-9090.

"The Christmas-Hana-Kwanzaa Holiday Spectacular": Improv Inferno. See 2 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 2 Friday. 10 p.m.

### FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Good Night, and Good Luck" (George Clooney, 2005). December 30-January 5. Dramatized account of the 1950s public battle between renowned CBS newsmen Edward R. Murrow and senator Joseph McCarthy. Jeff Daniels, David Strathairn, Robert Downey Jr., Patricia Clarkson. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m.

## 31 SATURDAY (New Year's Eve)

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Chicago State. Noon, Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.



## island music



### The Trinidad Tripoli Steelband Caribbean reinvention

Not many people in Ann Arbor know the history of the steel drums (or steel pans) that have sounded through half a dozen Jimmy Buffett records and countless tropical vacations. And still fewer know that Washtenaw County is home to a band whose roots go back to the beginnings of the steel drum phenomenon.

The steel drum is a round piece of metal, mounted over an open resonating compartment and tuned by hammering out different areas to different thicknesses so that they sound specific pitches when struck. Its ultimate roots lie in one of the clandestine remakings of African cultures carried out by slaves all over the Western Hemisphere: when the British banned drums in Trinidad, black islanders began to play tin cans, barrels, and tuned bamboo sticks in groups called Tamboo Bamboo bands. In the 1930s Winston "Spree" Simon began experimenting with the top of a cookie container, then the top of a paint can, and finally, during World War II, the top of a fifty-five-gallon drum discarded by U.S. servicemen. The Tripoli Steel Band, one of the first, took its name from the "shores of Tripoli" line in "The Marines' Hymn."

The steel band, like so many other African-derived cultural forms, proved wonderfully adaptable. At first, it was an underground form with outlaw associations. Hugh Borde became the leader of the Tripoli Steel

Band in 1951, when he was eighteen, and over the next decade the steel band evolved from street music to national pastime. The ensemble precision of the old Tamboo Bamboo bands stood musicians in good stead, and steel bands began to play everything from calypso tunes to Gershwin. The Esso oil company began to sponsor the Tripoli Steel Band, which won Trinidad's "bomb" award for best interpretation of a classical composition at the nationwide Panorama competition. It wasn't unusual to see an orchestra of steel pans playing Beethoven in a stadium.

The Esso Tripoli Steel Band played for Queen Elizabeth and appeared at Montreal's Expo 67. Liberace heard them there and invited them to tour with him. The band performed with Frank Sinatra and appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Then, in 1976, Hugh Borde and his family, which by now included several Tripoli Steel Band members, moved to Ypsilanti. Son Emile Borde created a new incarnation that took the name Trinidad Tripoli Steelband. With guitars and keyboards but always with the sound of steel drums front and center, they were a pretty consistent presence in Ann Arbor dance clubs in the 1980s and early 1990s. The steel drum got along well with its more high-powered nightclubgoing cousins, reggae and soca.

Now the Trinidad Tripoli Steelband plans a "Calypso Christmas" show at the Ark on Thursday, December 15. With all the changes the band has been through, a fun program of Christmas music shouldn't be too tall an order.

—James M. Manheim

★**"Storytime: Celebration of Light!":** Whole Foods Market. Local storyteller Rowena Conahan tells stories from around the globe, teaches songs, and leads games. 3-3:45 p.m., *Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle classroom*, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. *Reservations recommended*. 975-4500.

★**"Early Show for Friends and Families":** The Firefly Club. Live jazz ensemble TBA. Food buffet. 4-7 p.m., *Firefly Club*, 207 S. Ashley. \$20 (kids under 12, \$10; kids under 5, free) at the door only. 665-9090.

★**"Full Moon Traveling New Year's Dinner Party Trek":** Of Global Interest. Local adventure tour guide Heather O'Neal leads a 15-mile hike along the river to Depot Town in Ypsilanti, with a stop at a picnic table for an elegant gourmet meal. Bring a snack, appetizer, dish, or dessert, and a hot or cold beverage of your choice. Participants must arrange their own return home. "Rain, snow, sleet, hail, or worse," says

O'Neal, will not deter this trek. 5 p.m., meet at 120 Eighth St. Free. *Reservations required*. 369-3107.

★**"13th Annual New Year Jubilee":** Ypsilanti Area Visitors & Convention Bureau. This festival usually draws about 2,500 visitors and features more than 26 area favorites performing around Depot Town in Ypsilanti. At the *Riverside Arts Center*: comedy and mime by Michael Lee and Opus Mime (7:30-8:15 and 9-9:45 p.m.), children's folk music by Gemini (7-9 p.m.), and a percussion performance by the Ypsilanti High School drum line (6:30-7 p.m.). At *Emmanuel Lutheran Church*: West African drum and dance by Like Water Drum and Dance (7:30-9 p.m.) and rockabilly by George Bedard and the Kingpins (9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.). At *First Presbyterian Church*: the Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers (7:30-8:15 p.m.), fiddle-driven jazz by the Jeremy Kittel Jazz Quartet (9-11 p.m.), and sketch

artist Penny Kruse (7:30-11 p.m.). At *First United Methodist Church*: dulcimer player Charlene Berry (7-10 p.m.), storytelling by LaRon Williams (7-9 p.m.), boogie-woogie piano by Mr. B. (9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.), and sets by acoustic singer-songwriters David Mosher, Kitty Donohoe, and Matt Watroba and the folk, blues, and jazz duo Madcat and Kane (8-11 p.m.). At *St. Luke's Episcopal Church*: yo-yo champion Jake Maloney (8:15-9 p.m.) and comedy and magic by Boyer & Fitzsimmons (7:30-8:15 p.m. & 9:15-10 p.m.). At the *Michigan Firehouse Museum*: Celtic fiddle music by the Jeremy Kittel Acoustic Trio (7:30-8:15 p.m.), folk by Old Friends Four (8:15-9 p.m.) and comedy by Paddy Ash (9 p.m.). At the *Historical Museum*: classical guitarist Joseph Pratt (7-10 p.m.). At the *Automotive Heritage Collection*: R&B and blues by the Terraplanes (7-10 p.m.). At *Cross Street Village*: country music by Strings & Things (7-9 p.m.). At the *Dreamland Theater*: children's music and stories by Mister Laurence (8 & 9 p.m.) and the puppet show *Squeaky Toy: A Ghost Dog's Story* (7:30 & 8:30 p.m.). At *Bombadill's*: Native American flutist Louis Thunderhawk (time TBA). 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Admission tickets \$20 (kids ages 6-16, \$5; age 5 & under, free) in advance at Busch's, Sheena's, Nicola's Books, and at the door. For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483-4444 or 995-7281.

★**"New Year's Eve Dinner: Party Like It's 1877":** Zingerman's Roadhouse. Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a traditional 19th-century celebration with a 6-course meal featuring a menu from the 1877 cookbook *Buckeye Cookery and Practical House-keeping*. With early American wines from vineyards that survived Prohibition. 7 p.m., *Zingerman's Roadhouse*, 2501 Jackson. \$65 (\$100 includes wine). *Reservations required*. 663-FOOD.

★**"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind":** Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. All invited to join an annual year-end candle-lighting ceremony that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. It is repeated at 11:30 a.m. on January 1. 7 p.m., *Zen Buddhist Temple*, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free. 761-6520.

**New Year's Eve: The Firefly Club.** Double bill. The Susan Chastain Quartet (9 p.m.-midnight) is a jazz ensemble led by vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Chastain. **Lady Sunshine & the X Band** (midnight-3 a.m.) is a local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. 8 p.m.-4 a.m., *Firefly Club*, 207 S. Ashley. \$75 (includes dinner buffet & champagne toast) in advance and at the door. 665-9090.

**Kenny Rogerson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** A frequent guest on late-night TV, this gruff-voiced Boston comic is known for his sharp wit and absurd but irresistibly logical observations about private and public life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. The early show is a nonsmoking show. The late show includes a champagne toast and party favors. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets \$25 (8 p.m.) & \$30 (10:30 p.m.) in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

**New Year's Bash: Cavern Club.** Dancing to rock 'n' roll covers and originals by the Killer Flamingos, a popular, veteran band from Wayne. Opening act is Hot Sauce, a Detroit dance band. Includes admission to 2 street-level clubs above the Cavern Club, Gotham City and the Millennium Club, which feature dance music by DJs. 9 p.m.-4 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), *Cavern Club*, 210 S. First. \$50 includes a buffet dinner and champagne split. *Reservations recommended*. 332-9900, (800) 653-6466.

★**"New Year's Evil": Improv Inferno.** Elvis tribute artist Chris Solano performs a round of the Damnation Game, the club's regular weekend improv comedy competition. Also, a champagne toast and a \$100 prize giveaway. The show will likely sell out, so get tickets early. 9 p.m., *Improv Inferno*, 309 S. Main. \$20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 214-7080.

**The Chenille Sisters: The Ark.** The nationally renowned local trio of singer-songwriters Cheryl Dawdy, Connie Huber, and Grace Morand is known for its unbeatable combination of breathtakingly precise and resonant vocal harmonies, a comic wit that's both corny and subversive, and a delightfully eclectic repertoire of original songs mixed with jazz, swing, folk, and blues standards. 10:30 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$35 (includes champagne & party favors) in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

#### FILMS

**Michigan Theater Foundation.** "Good Night, and Good Luck" (George Clooney, 2005). See 30 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

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## #3 Late Night Hot Blues

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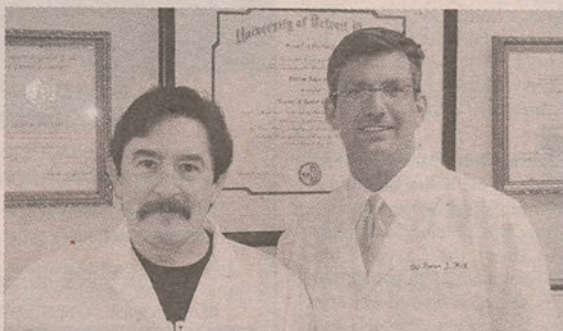
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NOVEMBER 25 26 27

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT



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Special Showtimes for Heywood  
Friday 7:00 & 9:30pm  
Saturday 8:00 & 10:30pm  
Sunday 7pm

Tix: All Tickets are \$17 in advance and at the door. Sorry, no discounts or passes.

Friday 7pm & Sunday shows are 10yrs and up.

All early shows are nonsmoking this weekend.

## TOM SIMMONS DECEMBER 8 9 10

You've seen Simmons on BET's "Comic View" numerous times as one of the few non-African American comics because Tom is a "true original" that is "very down to earth," a "reactionary revolutionary with a good heart," and "one damn funny comedian." Tom has proven himself to the industry at comedy festivals in Montreal and Boston. Cuts from all three of his CD's are played regularly on both XM and Sirius.

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Tix: Thursday \$8 Advanced Purchase \$10 General Admission at the door

Friday & Saturday \$11 Advanced Purchase \$13 General Admission at the door

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# MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

## The Ark

**316 S. Main 761-1451**  
Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover, no dancing. All shows begin at 8 p.m. (Sun., 7:30 p.m.) unless otherwise noted. **Dec. 1: Lee Murdock.** Great Lakes troubadour. See Events. **Dec. 2: Over the Rhine.** Artful rock 'n' roll quartet from Cincinnati. Opening act is singer-songwriter **Kim Taylor.** See Events. **Dec. 3: Arlo Guthrie.** Sold out. **Dec. 4: Lowen & Navarro.** Acoustic folk-rock duo from San Francisco. Opening act is **David Mead.** See Events. **Dec. 5: Judith Owen.** Welsh-born singer-songwriter and pianist who is joined by her husband, actor-comedian **Harry Shearer.** See Events. **Dec. 6: Jane Siberry.** Art-rock singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 7: Bettye LaVette.** World-renowned Detroit R&B and soul singer. See Events. **Dec. 8: Jesse Richards.** Local singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 9: Del McCoury Band.** Celebrated bluegrass band. See Events. **Dec. 10: Martin Sexton.** Very popular young singer-songwriter from Boston. See Events. 7:30 & 10 p.m. **Dec. 11: Chris Knight.** Country-flavored singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 13: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.** New Orleans swing band. See Events. **Dec. 14: Trinidad Tripoli Steelband.** Calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble. See Events. **Dec. 16: RFD Boys.** Popular local bluegrass band. See Events. **Dec. 17: Joel Mabius.** Multi-instrumental folkie singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 18: Bohola.** Traditional Irish music by this Chicago-based quartet. See Events. **Dec. 19: Ann Arbor Musicians For Peace.** Benefit performance by this collective of several top-notch local singer-songwriters and bands. See Events. **Dec. 29 & 30: "Crossroads Ceili."** An evening of Irish music and dance. See Events. 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 31: The Chenille Sisters.** Popular local folk-pop vocal trio. See Events. 10:30 p.m.

## The Blind Pig

**208 S. First St. 996-8555**  
This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, occasional early shows, 7-10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Dec. 1: Median.** Local alternative-rock band. Opening acts are **Bellucose**, a local hip-hop/funk band, and **Subgenius**, a local rock band. **Dec. 2: Brendan Benson.** Rock 'n' roll quartet led by this acclaimed young Detroit singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 3: Ekoostik Hookah.** Acoustic, country-flavored neo-hippie dance band from Columbus, Ohio. Opening act is **Smokestack.** See Events. **Dec. 6: Action Action.** Long Island indie rock quartet. Opening acts are **Women & Children First** and **Otto Vector.** See Events. **Dec. 7: War Between the States.** Indie band that plays guitar-based instrumental rock. **Dec. 8: Paper Street Saints.** Detroit alternative rock quartet. Opening acts are 2 other Detroit alternative rock quartets, **Reagan** and **Free Element.** **Dec. 9: Elzhi.** Solo performance by this rapper from the Detroit hip-hop ensemble Slum Village. Opening acts are the local hip-hop MCs **Magestik Legend** and **Nick Speed.** **Dec. 10: Paradime.** Popular Detroit hip-hop ensemble. Opening acts are **87** and **The Purple Gang.** **Dec. 13: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Dec. 14: Rising Sunz.** Local hip-hop duo. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 15: Ann Arbor Dub Project.** Local reggae-rock band. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 16: Coke Dick Motorcycle Awesome.** Local metal-edged punk-rock band led by singer-guitarist Ben Igrisan. Opening act is **The Skyline Obscura** (see Elbow Room). **Dec. 17: Scott Morgan's Powertrane.** Hard-edged blues and 60s-style Detroit rock 'n' roll by this quartet led by veteran singer-songwriter Morgan, a fixture on the local rock scene since his days with the legendary Rationals in the 60s. Morgan is also one of the best blues singers in town, with a sharp-edged, cannily rhythmic vocal attack that's both mean and soulful. **Dec. 20:**

## Drivin' Sideways

### Happy hour

In 1986 "Rocky," then manager of the Blind Pig, was going to ditch its Friday afternoon happy hour. "Pontiac" Pete Ferguson told him, "Give us fifty bucks and let us pass the pitcher a couple of times, and we'll pack the place." "We" was Ferguson's honky-tonk band, Drivin' Sideways.

Rocky called him on his offer, and the band moved over to the Pig from Mr. Flood's Party with Chris Goerke on bass, Brophy Dale on guitar, Steve "Dixboro" Cummings on pedal steel, and Dave Stockwell on drums. That first happy hour was so successful that not only were people squeezed to the rafters but the Jim Beam ran out. By 1988 former Blackfoot and Southern Rock All-Star Jackson Spire was on drums, either Chris Casello or Bob Schetter on guitars, Mark "Shamus" O'Boyle on pedal steel, and Goerke still on bass and backup vocals. The happy hour, Pete says, became a "launching pad for the weekend's festivities. Everybody seemed to know each other, and the place was always packed with dancers."

In the driver's seat with his strong vocals and ripping commentary, Pontiac Pete covered the themes we love so well: alcoholism, lust, obsession, insanity, and the misery of heartache. Such crowds were packing happy hour that the pitcher got passed a couple of times and the band split a third of the bar receipts, which paid \$50-\$75 apiece. When Sleepy LaBeef came to town, he used Drivin'

## honky-tonk

Sideways to back him up. In 1998 the band opened for Merle Haggard and John Anderson. Pete says his best night was when "six different people came up to me and said, 'Great show—you made me cry.'" Drivin' Sideways sang for people who'd had their hearts tossed into the tree chipper of life. "I learned to love country music at gunpoint at a bonfire in Lodi," says Ferguson. The songs he sings are full of movement as well as emotion: belly rubbers, honky-tonk, rockers, and weepers, all performed with love, seriousness, style, and humor by friends.

In 1999, after thirteen years, the Blind Pig ditched happy hour, and Pete moved to New York. Upon his return in 2001 he found that Jackson Spire was on tour, so he got Mark Newbound to play drums. Chris Casello had moved to Nashville, so Pete asked longtime friend George "Fun Fingers" Bedard to play guitars. With O'Boyle, Goerke, and keyboardist Jim King, they started playing happy hour at the Cavern Club. Flashback almost a quarter century to a headier time on the Ann Arbor music scene, when live music could be heard five nights a week in at least four bars: this same lineup, except for Goerke, composed Ferguson's



first band, Pontiac Pete and the Bonneville. As sidemen, Bedard and O'Boyle trade leads and licks on songs like Elvis's "Little Sister" and Conway Twitty's "It's Only Make Believe," vaulting Pete's evocative vocals to frenzied levels. And they frolic through the histrionic pantomime of his own "Bachelor Padded Cell." Whatever Pete comes up with they play, and the combination of his vast repertoire and his desire to entertain makes for varied and unpredictable set lists and a writhing dance floor.

Drivin' Sideways takes over the Cavern Club's Friday happy hour on December 23. See you there!

—Dan Moray

"Showcase Night." See above. **Dec. 21: TBA.** **Dec. 22: Ground Zero.** Tentative. Recently reunited early 80s Michigan punk band. **Dec. 23: Jamie Register Project.** Motownesque soul music by a band led by local singer-bassist Register. **Dec. 27: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Dec. 28: Counter Cosby.** Local band that plays sarcastic, goofy, prog-rock/metal. **Dec. 29: TBA.** **Dec. 30: Now On.** Hip-hop ensemble fronted by the 2 former Funktelligence vocalists, Mike Demps and Jackson Perry. Opening acts are the local hip-hop MC **Security**, the local hip-hop duo **Finale & Invincible**, and **DJ House Shoes.** **Dec. 31: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. Opening acts are **Saturday Looks Good to Me**, an eclectic local indie pop-rock band led by versatile local singer-songwriter Fred Thomas, and **Johnny Headband**, a local pop band.

## Cafe Felix

**204 S. Main 662-8650**  
This downtown cafe features live music Fri., 9 p.m.-midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: Deep Blue.** Jazz trio led by drummer John Churchville.

## Cavern Club

**210 S. First St. 913-8890**  
This downtown club, in the Celebration Cellars banquet space in the basement under the Millennium Club, features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Millennium Club and Gotham City) Sat. only, dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Dec. 2 (6-9 p.m.): Jim Tate Band.** Versatile honky-tonk band led by singer-guitarist Tate, a longtime local favorite. The band's huge repertoire includes blues, country, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and R&B. The lineup of local veterans includes bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, keyboardist Jim King, and guitarist Danny McIntire. No cover. **Dec. 2: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." **Dec. 3: Hot Sauce.** Detroit dance band. **Dec. 9 (6-9 p.m.): Terraplanes.** See

Goodnite Gracie. **Dec. 10: Killer Flamigos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Wayne. **Dec. 16: Blend.** Novi jam-rock band that plays originals and covers. **Dec. 17: Radiocraft.** Detroit indie rock band fronted by singer-songwriter Suzie Ferro. **Dec. 23: DJ TBA.** **Dec. 30 (6-9 p.m.): Drivin' Sideways.** See review, above. Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from early Chuck Berry to Sam & Dave to the Meters. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Dec. 30: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James-style vocalist. **Dec. 31: Killer Flamigos.** See Events.

## Club Above

**215 N. Main 663-7758**  
This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features a variety of live and recorded music Thurs.-Sun., 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Also, comedy on Tues. (see Events), and karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted unless otherwise noted. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9-10 p.m. **Every Sun.: Mexican Night.** With DJ Miguel or a live Mexican band. **Dec. 1: Reyel.** Local classic rock band. Opening act is **Inner Vision**, an Ypsilanti hard-rock band. **Dec. 3: Seahorse Napkin Force.** Local jam-rock band. Opening act is **Median** (see Blind Pig). **Dec. 8: Roadside Zoo.** Local funk-rock dance band. **Dec. 10: Bellicose.** See Blind Pig. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 15: Note to Self.** Local indie folk-rock band. Opening act is **Deborah Solo**, an acoustic pop singer-songwriter. **Dec. 17: Deep Space Six.** Popular local Grateful Dead cover band. **Dec. 22: Closed.** **Dec. 29: TBA.**

**Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Salsa Dancing Party."** With DJ TBA.

## Club Bedrocks

**2900 Jackson Rd. 665-4444**  
Lounge in the Best Western Suites. DJs on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: "Mix & Mingle."** DJs spin old school, R&B, reggae, techno, and hip-hop dance records. **Every Sat.: Latino Night.** DJs play Latin dance music.

## Conor O'Neill's

**318 S. Main 665-2968**  
Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30-10 p.m.) and Tues.-Thurs. and occasional other nights (9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Dec. 1: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Dec. 7: L.P.O.** Local pop-rock singer-songwriter and keyboardist. **Dec. 8: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **Dec. 14: Busstop.** See Rush Street. **Dec. 15: George Martha Band.** Detroit trio that plays traditional Celtic music with a Middle Eastern accent. **Dec. 21: Mossy Moran.** See above. **Dec. 22: Grievous Angel.** Detroit-area country-rock band, led by local singer-guitarist David Mosher, that covers everyone from Hank Williams to the Grateful Dead and Metallica. **Dec. 28: The Lash.** Celtic folk-rock originals by this very popular band from Lansing that also plays traditional Irish music, Pogues covers, and drinking songs. **Dec. 29: Bruno's Brawlers.** Traditional Irish songs of drinking and rebellion, accompanied on a wide array of instruments, by this Detroit-area duo.

## Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

**114 S. Main 665-9468**  
This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30-10:30 p.m. **Dec. 2: Ralph Koziarski.** This local woodwind player plays music from his new CD, *In Search of an Oasis*, a collection of pieces that blend jazz and world music idioms. **Dec. 3: Fourth**



**Wish.** Ballads and blues standards and oddities by this local jazz quartet. Members are winds player Jon Margerum-Leys, keyboardist Tyler Driskill, bassist Rich Rickman, and percussionist Kaamran Hafeez. **Dec. 9: John Latini.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, the winner of the 2004 Metro Detroit Songwriting Contest. **Dec. 10: Ken & Billy King.** Homespun rock 'n' roll covers and originals by Frog Holler Farm owner Ken King, a versatile country-folk musician, and his son, guitarist Billy King. **Dec. 16: The Royal Garden Trio.** Early jazz standards and Hot Club-style gypsy jazz by this local trio led by guitarist Brian Delaney. With cellist Michael Karoub and clarinetist and tenor guitarist Tom Bogardus. **Dec. 17: Misty Lyn.** Local Americana singer-songwriter known for her soulful voice and frank, fresh original songs. **Dec. 23: Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Trio.** This local trio led by guitar virtuoso Summers plays the music of Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Lenny Breau. With guitarist Chris Moyer and bassist Dave Sharp. **Dec. 30: Steve Amick.** This local singer-songwriter, whose acclaimed debut novel *The Lake, the River, & the Other Lake* was published last spring, celebrates the release of his new CD, *There's Always PIE...*, a collection of songs that draw inventively on an eclectic range of influences, from Jonathan Richman and Lou Reed to Ring Lardner. The *Washington Post* calls Amick "a cheerful black humorist who is seriously askew." Some local musicians appear on the CD and are on hand tonight to help perform the songs. **Dec. 31:** Closed.

### Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. 827-2737  
The intimate bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. December schedule TBA.

### The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211  
Restaurant with live jazz Mon.-Sat., 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Robert Warren, and a drummer TBA.

### Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483-6374  
This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon., Wed., Thurs., and occasional other weeknights, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.-midnight. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "House Night."** With DJ Brian Roy. **Every Wed.: Open Mike Jam.** All musicians invited. **Dec. 1: TBA.** **Dec. 2: Coke Dick Motorcycle Awesome.** See Blind Pig. Opening acts are the Detroit emo-punk band **In Arcadia**, the Ypsilanti punk trio **The Disparity Clause**, and the metal-rock band **Mini-Van Missile**. **Dec. 3: The Skyline Obscura.** Detroit-area posthardcore indie rock band. Opening acts are the Hartland alternative rock quartet **Rain Is Wet**, the Battle Creek indie rock quartet **Oceans of Regret**, and the local emo-flavored alternative rock band **Spira**. **Dec. 7: "Free Noise Project."** A blend of improvisational music and experimental noise by ensembles of randomly grouped local musicians. No cover. **Dec. 8: TBA.** **Dec. 9: Coup.** Detroit rock band. Opening acts are the Lansing stoner sludge band **Death Valley Dragline**, the Detroit prog-rock quintet **Tri-Nebulous**, and the mid-Michigan rock band **Entropy**. **Dec. 10: Rattling Wall Collective.** Lansing-based experimental noise band. Opening acts are **Sublingual Ensemble**, a local avant-jazz ensemble, and **Defenestra**, a Detroit-area quartet that calls its music "electronic musique-concrete no-wave free jazz." **Dec. 15: Amoeba Kids.** The duo of guitarist Craig Johnson and drummer Ethan Disbrow plays rock 'n' roll influenced by Ween, Frank Zappa, and Captain Beefheart. Opening act is **Light**. **Dec. 16: Tribute Night.** An evening of metal band songs by the Detroit rock 'n' roll band **Mound** and several other Ann Arbor and Detroit-area bands. **Dec. 17: 25 Suaves.** The husband-and-wife noise-metal duo of guitarist Mr. Velocity Hopkins and drummer DJ Party Girl. Opening acts are **Hellen**, a Detroit-area ensemble of classically trained women who play classic rock, and **Skeleton Witch**, a metal quintet from Athens, Ohio. **Dec. 22: TBA.** **Dec. 23: Chris Richards & the**



Welsh chanteuse Judith Owen sings everything from Cole Porter to a ballad version of Deep Purple's "Smoke on the Water" at the Ark Dec. 5.

**Subtractions.** Power-pop band led by veteran Livonia singer-songwriter Richards. Opening acts are **The Badways**, a Detroit garage pop band, and **State of Samuel**, an acoustic rock band from Sweden. **Dec. 29: TBA.** **Dec. 30: Dave Unger.** Anthemic roots-oriented pop-rock by this former Love 666 frontman. Opening act is a Detroit goth band led by a vocalist who goes by the name of **The Impaler**. **Dec. 31: TBA.**

### Enzo's Sports Bar

3965 S. State 665-1600  
This southside sports bar features DJs on Wed., 6-10 p.m., and live music on Thurs., 9 p.m.-midnight, and Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: Blues Jam Session.** All musicians invited. **Dec. 2: The Blues Rollers.** Local blues band. **Dec. 3: Wixom Slim & the Wyze Gyze.** Ann Arbor-area band that plays a variety of swing and jump blues styles. **Dec. 9: The Witch Doctors.** See Northfield. **Dec. 10: The Blues Owls.** Blues band led by singer-blues harpist Bob Bedard, a Dexter psychologist. **Dec. 16: The Bluescasters.** Local blues band. **Dec. 17: Luther "Badman" Keith Blues Band.** R&B-inflected Detroit blues band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Keith. **Dec. 22 & 23: Mojo Phoenix Blues Band.** Lansing blues quartet led by vocalist Cindy Hayden, who also plays harmonica. **Dec. 30 & 31: TBA.**

### Espresso Royale Caffe

214 S. Main 668-1838  
The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Sat., 9-11 p.m. **Dec. 3: Annie Capps.** Local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes jazz-tinged folk-rock songs with a strong personal flavor. She has released 3 CDs, including the recent *Not So Sure*. **Dec. 10: The Pryde.** Local performance-art ensemble. **Dec. 17: Sari Brown.** Young local singer-songwriter who writes reverent yet unconventional spirituals, late-night traveling songs, and folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility. **Dec. 31: Bruce Bale.** Veteran local singer-songwriter known for his driving guitar grooves, smooth steelie voice, and passionate, witty lyrics.

### The Firefly Club

207 S. Ashley 665-9090  
Jazz and blues club that was recently named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press*. Live jazz Mon.-Thurs., 8 p.m.-midnight; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; & Sun., 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., Fri., & Sun., 5-8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri. (5:30-8 p.m.): Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun. (5-8 p.m.): Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graf-

fiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed.: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. **Every Thurs. (5-8 p.m.): LOL.** Jazz ensemble. **Every Thurs. (except December 15): Los Gatos.** Mambo and cha-cha by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 50s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded by beginning (6:15 p.m.) and intermediate (7 p.m.) Latin dance lessons (\$5 includes cover for the band). **Dec. 2: Parri Wicks.** Jazz trio led by this singer-pianist. See Events. **Dec. 3: The Javon Jackson Superband.** Jazz ensemble led by saxophonist Jackson, a former member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. See Events. **Dec. 6: Jazz Jam Session.** All musicians invited. **Dec. 9: Paul Keller Ensemble Christmas Show.** This local jazz ensemble (see above) performs jazz arrangements of Christmas favorites. **Dec. 10: TBA.** **Dec. 13: TBA.** **Dec. 15: Rachel Price.** Jazz trio led by this highly regarded 19-year-old jazz singer. **Dec. 16: Phil DeGreg Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by this Cincinnati pianist. See Events. **Dec. 17: Los Gatos.** See above. **Dec. 20 & 21: "Steppin' Out with Civic: Civic Does Sinatra."** Ann Arbor Civic Theater singer-actors perform songs associated with Frank Sinatra. See Events. **Dec. 23: Kurt Krahnke Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by local bassist Krahnke. **Dec. 27: Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by an all-star ensemble led by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native. With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, Detroit bassist Tim Flood, and Los Gatos drummer Pete Siers. **Dec. 30: Joe Weaver & R.J.'s Rhythm Rockers.** R&B band led by this veteran Detroit singer-pianist. See Events. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve."** With the Susan Chastain Quartet and Lady Sunshine & the X Band. See Events.

### Frenchie's Jazz Club

54 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti 483-5230  
This Depot Town club affiliated with the adjacent Sidetrack Bar & Grill features occasional live music, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover, dancing. December schedule TBA.

### Good Time Charley's

1140 South University 668-8411  
This new club upstairs at Good Time Charley's restaurant features DJs Wed.-Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed.: "Wild Out Wednesdays."** Old-school and new-school hits with DJ Graffiti and DJ C-4. **Every Thurs.: "Foundation."** DJs Zuma Hi-Fi and Selector Billy the Kid play dancehall, roots reggae, soca, calypso, hip-hop, and R&B records. **Every Fri.: TGIF.** DJ Scotty plays music requested by the audience. **Every Sat.: Top 40.** With DJs TBA.

### Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron 623-2070  
Martini and cigar bar connected to D'Amato's restaurant. Live jazz Wed.-Sat., 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. **Every Tues.: "Deep-Chilled House & Techno."** With DJ Scotty Styles. **Every Wed.: Chris Kurzawa Quartet.** Local quintet, formerly known as Sparklemotion, that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals. **Every Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 2: Odessa Harris Trio.** This dynamic Detroit vocalist, who sings bluesy jazz in the style of Dinah Washington, is backed by a jazz trio. **Dec. 3: Tumbao.** Cuban jazz quintet led by local saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. With pianist Sven Anderson, bassist John Barron, and Javier Barrios on timbales. The band has released a CD, *Montuno Salad*. **Dec. 9: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of house-rocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned*. With guitarist Dave Fero, blues harpist and keyboardist Phil Ryski, saxophonist Willie Rankin, bassist Wendy Hayes, and drummer Lenny Gilpatrick. **Dec. 10: Nod.** Jazz trio. **Dec. 16: Pete Siers Trio.** Mainstream jazz ensemble led by veteran local drummer Siers. **Dec. 17: Busstop.** See Rush Street. **Dec. 23: Carl Michel Duo.** Jazz duo led by Detroit pianist Michel. **Dec. 30: Dave Sharp Trio.** Straight-ahead jazz by this local trio led by bassist Sharp. **Dec. 31: TBA.**

### Gotham City

210 S. First St. 913-8890  
This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Millennium Club, features DJs on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern and Millennium clubs), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Every Fri. & Sat.: House Night.** With DJ J Smooth.

### The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636  
Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano (6-9 p.m.) by Adam Riccinto (Tues.-Fri.) and Tom Knapp (Sat. & Sun.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: "Starlight Sundays."** Dancing to music by DJ Michial White. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Michial White. 7 p.m.-midnight. **Dec. 6-8: Barbara Love.** Pop dance trio led by Love, a vocalist with a sultry style in the manner of Lena Horne. **Dec. 9 & 10: Nite Flight.** Local reggae and calypso band. **Dec. 13-15: Slice.** East Lansing pop dance band. **Dec. 16 & 17: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Dec. 20-23: The Terraplanes.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Dec. 27-29: Nick Strange Trio.** Popular local rock, blues, & reggae dance band. **Dec. 30 & 31: Nite Flight.** See above.

### Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. 623-1443  
This brand-new jazz lounge features live music, Wed.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Wed.: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Every Thurs.: House & Techno.** With DJ Scotty Styles. **Dec. 2: Rear View Mirror.** Rock cover band. **Dec. 3: Blackman & Arnold.** Gypsy jazz by a quartet led by guitarists Sean Blackman and John Arnold. **Dec. 9: Jamie Register Project.** See Events. **Dec. 10: TBA.** **Dec. 16: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Dec. 17: Funktelligence.** Reunion off this popular local funk-oriented jazz-rock band with a penchant for psychedelia. **Dec. 23: Chris Kurzawa Quartet.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Dec. 30 & 31: TBA.**

### Millennium Club

210 S. First St. 913-8890  
This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Gotham City club, features DJs Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern Club and Gotham City), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Techno Nite.** With DJ Mad Maxx.

### The Necto

510 E. Liberty 994-5436  
This popular local dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon., 10 p.m.-2 a.m., & Thurs.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.-Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Mon.: "Factory."** DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, synth pop, and New Romantic records. **Every Thurs.: "College Night."** DJ Binzo spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** With DJ Timmy D spinning high-energy dance tunes in the main room and DJ Blue spinning pop, retro, and R&B in the downstairs Red Room. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** In the main room DJ Binzo plays Top 40 hip-hop and dance music, and in the red room DJ Marquee plays a variety of retro party music.

### Northfield Roadhouse

50 E. North Territorial at Whitmore Lake Rd. 327-3693  
This tavern features a DJ Thurs., 8 p.m.-midnight, & live music Wed., 8-11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.; & Sun., 5:30-9:30 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: Chef Chris & the Nairobi Trio.** Blues band led by vocalist and blues harpist Chef Chris Sirvinskis. **Every Wed.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by a rotating lineup of the local blues band **The Witch Doctors**. All blues musicians invited. **Every Thurs.: "The Rockin' Roadhouse."** WCBN DJ Del Villarreal plays honky-tonk, blues, old-school rock 'n' roll, and rockabilly records. Free dance lessons by Mike McKenzie. **Dec. 2: Michael Katon Band.** Southern blues-rock band led by veteran local singer/guitarist Katon. **Dec. 3: The Kenny Parker Blues Band.** Upbeat blues and rockabilly originals by this band led by Parker, a singer-songwriter and guitarist from Toledo. **Dec. 9: Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies.** Detroit rockabilly quartet led by singer-songwriter and drummer Mack. **Dec. 10: Witch Doctors.** This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayrone, best known as the host of the na-



tionally syndicated *Bone Conduction Music Show*, plays what Thayne calls "way-strong mojo, ritualistic barroom blues healing." **Dec. 16: Chris Canas & the Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by vocalist Canas, an 18-year-old blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist. **Dec. 17: Maggie's Farm.** Detroit acoustic blues trio led by singer-guitarist Maggie McCabe. **Dec. 23: Doug Deming & the Jewel Tones.** Traditional post-war blues, jump blues, and barroom swing by this acclaimed Detroit quartet led by singer-guitarist Deming. **Dec. 30: Robert Noll.** Blues and blues-rock band led by a power trio led by this popular veteran Detroit singer-guitarist. **Dec. 31: Horse Cave Trio.** Blues-fueled rockabilly by this local trio led by veteran singer-bassist Ron Devore. Also, other bands TBA.

#### Old Town

122 W. Liberty

662-9291

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 4: The Flying Latini Brothers.** Country-flavored rock, along with some Tom Waits covers, by this local band fronted by singer-songwriter John Latini. **Dec. 11: The Hummingbirds.** Twang-filled acoustic country and American roots music by the local duo of singer-guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Hercules that won a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band. **Dec. 18: Mike Boyd.** Original country-folk songs in the manner of Guthrie and Dylan by this local singer-songwriter.

#### Oz

210 S. Fifth Ave.  
222-4770

New nightclub located in the former Ann Arbor Theater. DJs or live music, Tues. & Wed., 8 p.m.-2 a.m.; Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.-4 a.m.; & occasional Sun., 6 p.m.-midnight. Cover after 11 p.m., dancing. **Every Wed.: Gay Night.** With DJs TBA. **Every Thurs.: Top 40 Night.** With DJ Fares. **Every Fri.: International Night.** Arabic, Indian, and hip-hop music with DJ Fares. Also, a belly dancing show at midnight. **Every Sat.: Hip-Hop and Old Skool.** With DJ Fares.

#### Oz's Music Environment

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This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues. & occasional other nights, 7:30-9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Dec. 6: "Songwriters Open Stage."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 13: "Anything Goes Open Stage."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Dec. 20: "Acoustic Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Dave Guimond. **Dec. 27: "Songwriters Circle."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Mickey Richard.

#### Rick's American Cafe

611 Church

996-2747

This campus-area club features DJs Mon. & Wed.-Sat., 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon. & Thurs.: "Jamm'n' DJs."** DJs TBA play dance music. **Every Wed.: "High Energy Dance Party."** With DJ John King. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Supermack.** Techno music with DJs from Supermack Productions.

#### Rush Street

314 S. Main

913-0330

The bar in this new downtown restaurant features live music Wed. & Thurs. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. **Every Wed.: Busstop.** Smart, playful rock 'n' roll with a funky R&B edge by this local band fronted by Julia Ingalls whose repertoire ranges from vintage Stevie Wonder and Steely Dan to Sheryl Crow, along with some originals. **Every Thurs.: Jason Conley & Rob Young.** Contemporary indie rock originals and covers by this local duo of guitarist Conley and electric violinist Young.

#### Scorekeepers Sports Bar & Grill

310 Maynard

995-0100

DJs on Tues. & Thurs., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted. **Every Tues.: Dance Music.** With DJs TBA. **Every Wed.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by the Master Tones, a lo-

cal blues band. All blues musicians and vocalists invited. **Every Thurs.-Sat.: Dance Music.** With DJs TBA.

#### Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave.

302-3687

This dinner club features DJs Wed.-Sun., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover (women admitted free on Fri. before 11 p.m.), dancing. Age 18 & older (Wed.) and 21 & older (Thurs.-Sun.) admitted. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: DJs play dance music TBA.** **Every Fri.: "International Dance Party."** With DJ C4. **Every Sat.: "Hip-Hop and House Night."** With DJ Jason "J Smooth" Doliveck. **Every Sun.: "Hip-Hop and Reggae Night."** With a DJ TBA.

#### Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern is resuming its music programming on a very limited scale, with Monday open mikes, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Dancing,



Acclaimed local performance artist and singer-songwriter Jesse Richards performs at the Ark Dec. 8.

no cover. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** Hosted by the Martindales-singer-guitarist Brian Brickley.

#### TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483-4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features a jam session on Mon., karaoke on Tues., DJs on Wed., and dance bands on Thurs.-Sat. (9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.). Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.: Local Music Night.** Bands TBA. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** All musicians invited. Hosted by the local pop-folk jam band CityGoat. **Dec. 1: Nadir's Distorted Soul.** Detroit soul-funk band. **Dec. 2: TBA.** **Dec. 3: Deep Space 6.** See Club Above. **Dec. 8: Ghettobillies.** Local acoustic guitar trio that specializes in sweet & gritty country-rock with glee club harmonies, a frat band lyrical sensibility, and occasional neopsychedelic yearnings. **Dec. 9: The Boomerangs.** Raunchy, 60s-style garage-rock by this quartet featuring the classic lead vocals of veteran local rocker Dan Mulholland, the former leader of the Watutis and several other great local rock 'n' roll bands. **Dec. 10: CityGoat.** See above. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD. **Dec. 15: "Oldies Night."** With DJ Stoo. **Dec. 16: The American Pink Floyd Experience.** Pink Floyd cover band from Kalamazoo. Opening act is Back Forty, a local acoustic string quartet that plays twangy roots-folk music fused with elements of jazz and rock. **Dec. 17: Rootstand.** Local band whose music blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. **Dec. 22: "80s Night."** With DJ Stoo. **Dec. 23: Foundation of Funk.** Top-notch soul-flavored R&B, blues, and 70s funk sextet led by Steve Somers, a versatile guitarist with a pungent, staccato style, and vocalist Valerie Barrymore. **Dec. 28: "Holiday Bash."** With Papa Joshua and other OneRoot Soundsystem DJs. **Dec. 30: "Top 40."** Oldies and current hits with DJ Stoo. **Dec. 31: No music.**

#### Theo Doors

705 W. Cross, Ypsilanti

485-6720

This EMU campus-area restaurant turns into a dance club on Tues., 10 p.m.-2 a.m., with live hip-hop bands. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 6, 13, & 20: Hip-hop ensembles TBA.** **Dec. 27: No music.**

#### Touchdown Cafe

1220 South University

665-7777

This campus-area cafe features music Wed.-Fri., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. December schedule TBA.

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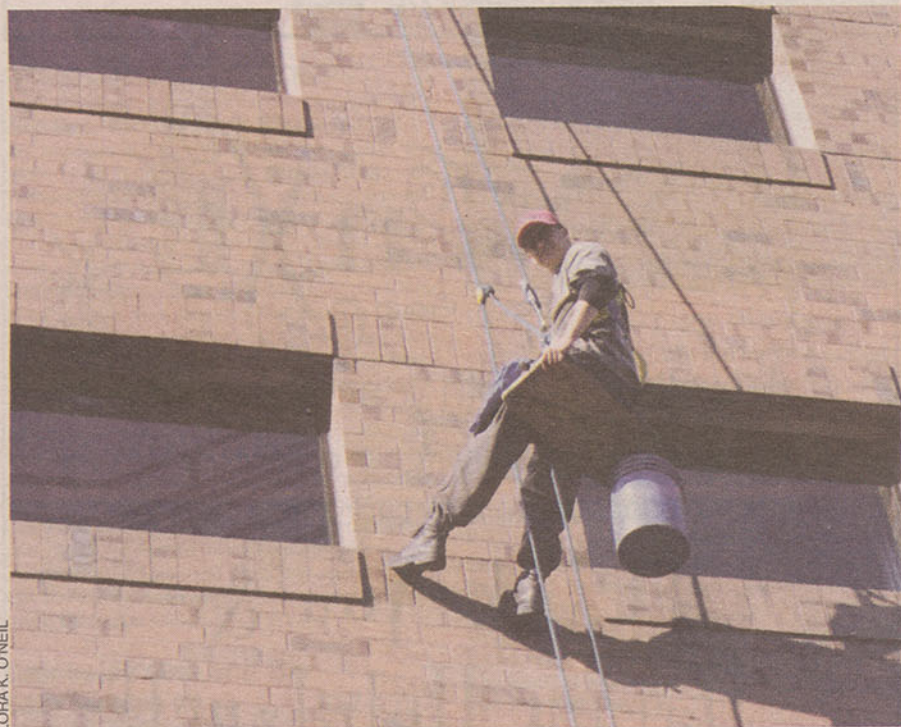
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# My Town



## The view from the top

### Teddy Garcia, window washer

On a recent sunny afternoon, gorgeous but chilly, I was walking up Liberty Street when something moving high on the Liberty Square building near Maynard caught my eye. Looking up, I saw a man suspended by ropes, hanging off the side of the structure, his feet pressed firmly against the long row of tinted windows running its length.

Fascinated, I stopped in my tracks to watch. My fear of heights kicked in immediately, giving me an instant adrenaline rush at the sight of the window washer dangling so high above the safety of the ground. As I watched, the man, equipped with a bucket and squeegee, made short work of cleaning the glass and lowering himself, story after story, closer to the sidewalk. I couldn't help wondering what kind of person braves such immense heights with only a couple of cables holding him up. Hurrying to meet the man when he landed, I asked if I could talk to him about his work.

In Sweetwaters cafe, a few days later, I learned that Theodorito (Teddy) Garcia has been washing windows for more than ten years, since he was asked to help out a friend. When he started as an apprentice, he set up the equipment on the roof; he didn't do the actual window cleaning until sometime later. Today he's an on-site foreman.

"I was very scared of heights at first," admitted Garcia, a clean-cut, thirty-five-year-old Melvindale resident with a quick smile. "I started off slowly, doing just two- and three-story buildings, until I felt comfortable going higher." How high? He's cleaned the windows on the Cadillac Tower in downtown Detroit—forty stories tall!

At times Teddy works on a powered scaffold, which he likes because he can lower himself down the side of the building as he cleans the glass and ride back up to start the next group of windows. The day I spotted him he was using a boat-swain's chair, a sort of swing that he lowers as he works. At the bottom he has to unhook, go inside the building, and ride the elevator back up to the top to begin again.

He always wears a full body harness attached to a safety rope. "You always want to be on your toes," he says. "There's never enough checking of your equipment. Double-, triple-, quadruple-check all your equipment: that's what I always preach to my coworkers." He adds, with a serious look in his eyes, "We all want to go home from work at the end of the day."

Safety below is as important to Garcia as the welfare of his crew and himself. "If you drop a squeegee on somebody from twenty stories up, you could kill them," he says. That's why he sometimes drips a bit of water from his mop onto people below if they wander into his coned-off safety area. "I'd rather get somebody a little wet to show them they're not paying attention where they're going than see an accident happen," he says.

When he works on historic structures, such as the ten-story First National Building at Main and Washington (which has its windows cleaned twice yearly), he has to be careful not to damage the ornate terracotta facade—and to make sure that the sharp edges at the top don't cut his ropes. Allied Building Services, Garcia's employer, also handles the Washtenaw County Courthouse and Administration Building and the Ann Arbor City Hall. Other

jobs take him all over southeastern Michigan and into Ohio.

Garcia and his crews get a wide variety of reactions when they suddenly drop down in front of somebody's window. Startled office workers frequently run from their cubicles to show coworkers the man suspended outside their upper-story windows. People like to tell Garcia, "You've missed a spot." Garcia insists, "I don't miss a spot. I know what I'm doing." When he reports that he's been "flushed" three times through apartment windows, I ask whether the flashers were women or men. "In my case, luckily, only women," he says with a smile.

Any comments from onlookers on the ground? "I'm glad it's you up there and not me," people have shouted up. Children look on with awed amazement, and Garcia tells them, "Stay in school. You don't want to do this for a living. You want to work less for more money. This is hard work for what it pays." Unfortunately, window cleaners are making the same amount of money today that they made ten years ago, because their business is so competitive. Many customers will take new bids every couple of years and change firms if they get a lower rate elsewhere.

"I like my job," Garcia says, "but it's

not as fun as it looks." The father of two sons, he recently took his fifteen-year-old to work, showing him what the job is really like from start to finish. "He has a lot more respect for what I do since that day," Garcia told me. Most of the work lies in setting up and taking down equipment, including hauling around ropes as long as 500 feet. Winding the ropes up at the end of the day can easily take half an hour.

"No matter how long you've been on the job," reflects Garcia, "you're always conscious of the element of danger involved in the work. You do whatever you need to do to cope." At times he whistles or talks to himself to keep his cool while working at breathtaking heights. "Going up to the top of a forty-story building, I once screamed all the way up, in the elevator, to get my anxiety out before I had to go over the edge," he reveals.

He's had only one accident on the job: "I fell from a nine-foot-high roof one time when I was cleaning a skylight." Fortunately Garcia was not injured. But he knows that he's not going to keep up this kind of work forever. "The heights are getting to me more and more as I grow older," he confesses. "I'm more inclined to let the younger guys do the higher-up jobs lately. I can see myself doing a whole bunch of ground work in the future!"

—Lora K. O'Neil

## Take a seat, make a stand

### Remembering Rosa Parks

From John R Street in Detroit, I can see an orderly line of thousands. It takes me about three minutes to walk past the dozens of people who make up the last row and take my place at the end. It's not the end for long. People keep coming to pay their respects to Rosa Parks.

A teenage boy stands alone in front of me. He repeatedly looks over his shoulder and scans the sidewalk along Brush Street, obviously looking for someone. A father in his thirties, face lined and tired from a day's work, and his young daughter and son join the line as it moves forward. I settle in for what's sure to be a bit of a wait.

In her passing as in her life, Parks is bringing people together. Professionals and homeless people, teachers and factory workers, preschool children and teenagers in academy uniforms, all thread their way through the stanchions on the lawn.

The teen in front of me is named Chris; he's looking for his mother, worried she's going to miss the line. "We'll let her in," I say. He rolls his eyes with feigned disdain at being seen with his mum. "Unless you want to avoid her," I offer. He laughs.

Consciously trying not to appear too conscious, I scan the crowd and am

ashamed to see that white faces make up no more than 1 percent. I'm not the only one who's noticed.

A teenage girl shrugs a shoulder in my direction. "What's she doing here?" she asks her mother in low tones.

"That's why Mrs. Parks did what she did," replies her mother, simply.

The father behind me gently helps his young daughter place her MP3 player's earphones under her pink flowered knit hat. Chris's mother arrives; he teases her for making him wonder where she'd gone. The parallel sections of the line move, bringing me into alignment with a man in his late forties, wearing a camel-color cashmere coat over a perfectly tailored gray suit. He nods in my direction. I smile.

For days the media have been filled with the news of Rosa Parks's passing and prodigious influence. But this isn't something spun to gain ratings and readership. This is real.

Last year playwright Arthur Miller told an Ann Arbor audience, "All you can do is illuminate something so that people can make up their own minds about what is reality and what is mythology." This country was ready for Rosa Parks's light in 1955, I



think to myself. When the quiet seamstress refused to give up her bus seat to a white man, she inspired people to question their beliefs and galvanized a generation to take a stand. Her arrest was a tipping point for social change in the United States and, some would say, the world.

The line is moving quickly now. The father behind me talks with his wife on his cell phone, assuring her the children are fine. Photographs of Parks begin to dot the walkway, signaling the final leg of the line.

As the sun drops in the fall sky, I think about the events of Detroit in the 1960s and more recently in Benton Harbor, New Orleans, Saginaw, and Paris that cry for attention to discrimination and despair. The line of mourners now extends down Brush and the length of Farnsworth. Chris and his mother debate who was at fault in last night's football game—Williams or Garcia. They invite my input.

Over the walkway's banister, we can now see the green-and-white bus from Montgomery, Alabama. A white Rolls-Royce hearse and limousine are parked in front of it.

The line becomes the backdrop for a reporter from Channel 4 as she records a sound bite for the evening news. The camera pans down the length of the queue while she wraps up. I step aside, not wanting to provide evidence of balance when so little balance is evident. Chris's mother thinks he ought to be enthusiastic about his television appearance. He's having none of it, reminding her that all of his seventh-grade classmates will see him on television with a zit on his forehead. "Can you believe this?" she asks me, laughing.

As we near the entrance, people's energy levels rise. Inside the glass doors, I am warmly welcomed by a greeter and handed a memorial photo and profile. To the left, volunteers form a semicircle, every other one holding a box of tissue.

Each of us is given just a few seconds to pay tribute to Parks. She wears a suit patterned with delicate pastel flowers and is the picture of peace and grace. Her diminutive features contrast starkly with the powerful energy her presence emits even now. I am flooded with conflicting emotions: pain at the decades of people's suffering; bliss at the joy of this woman's spirit—what some speakers at her funeral would call "eternal power." I utter a silent blessing and move beyond the casket toward the exit doors.

I reach for a tissue from one of the volunteers. Chris's eyes widen in surprise as he watches me dab my eyes. "Thank you for coming, ma'am," a volunteer says as I make my way toward the stairs.

I find my car and sit there behind the wheel watching the sun set. The civil rights movement had clear, heroic goals when Parks took her stand. Her death is the end of an era, I think. Maybe, in her passing, Parks brought us together again at a time when it seems that we've forgotten history and need not only to be reminded, but also to ask, "What do we want next?"

—Sara Birdsall

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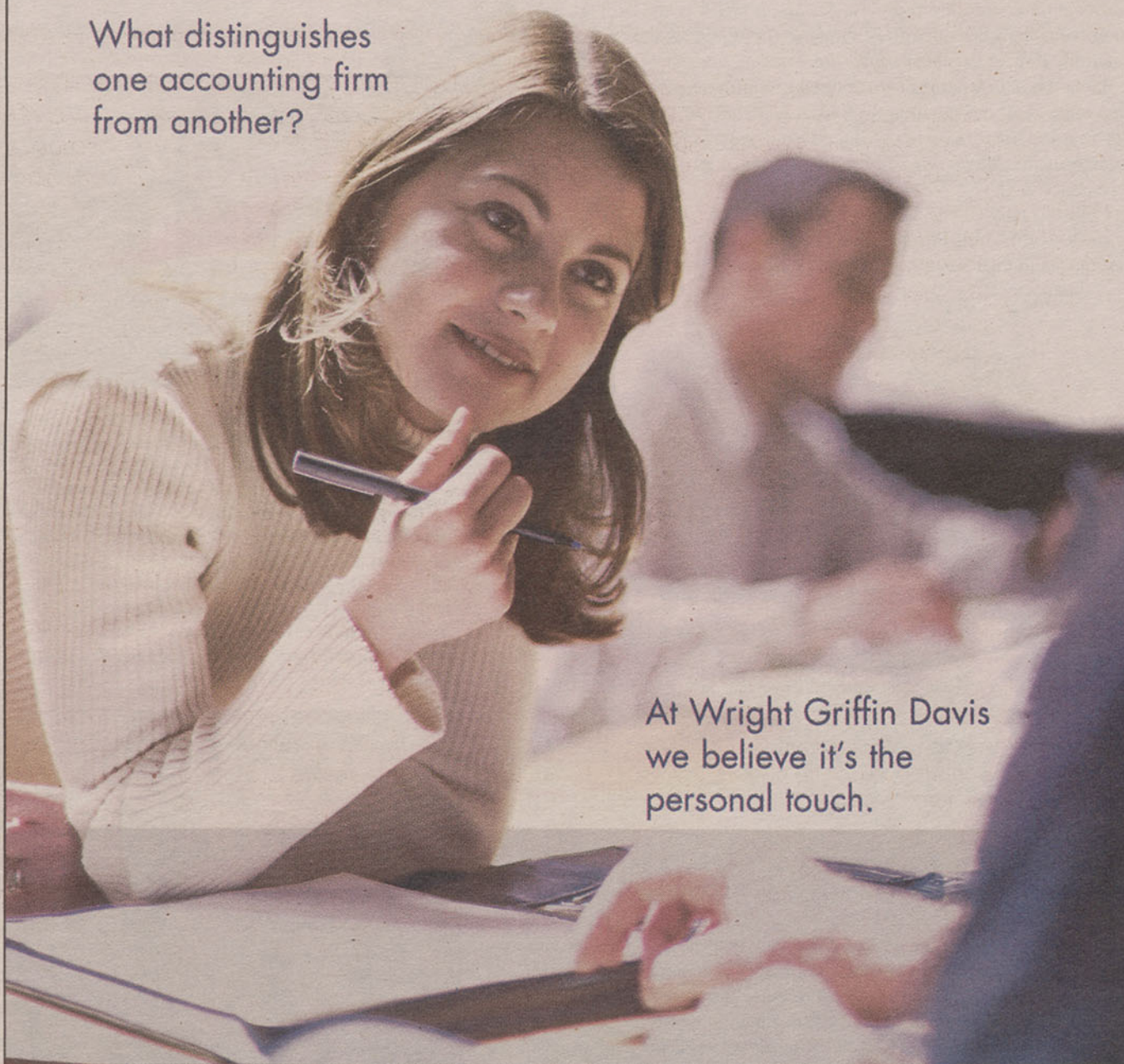
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## THEN & NOW

### 805 Oxford

*A former frat house returns to its roots*

For some, an old college yearbook is a keepsake. For others, it is a tool to learn about a parent or grandparent. But for local real estate developer Jeff Hauptman and his wife, CJ, the U-M *Michiganensian* is an architectural resource.

"We were restoring our home at 805 Oxford Road and required photos from when it was still in good shape," says Hauptman. "Louisa Pieper, who was then at the historic district commission, showed me a *Michiganensian* yearbook from the nineteen-fifties showing the house as a fraternity. It included photos of the front and a group shot of the brothers in what is now the dining room." He pursued more yearbooks, hoping to find more details of the 108-year-old home. Eventually Hauptman acquired every volume of the *Michiganensian* published since its first appearance in 1897.

Coincidentally, it was also in 1897 that U-M physiology professor Warren Plimpton Lombard and his wife, Caroline, built their shingle-style Dutch Colonial house,



Researching the history of 805 Oxford, Jeff Hauptman assembled a complete run of the *Michiganensian* (top). His wife, CJ, aimed to update the interior to contemporary expectations while still respecting the ideas of the couple who built the house in 1897—U-M prof Warren Lombard and his wife, Caroline (photo collage, left). Now the Hauptmans (below, with son, Jack, and daughter, Charlotte) are redoing Fielding Yost's "Little Big House." Photos: Contemporary, Cibele Vieira; historic, courtesy U-M Bentley Historical Library.



805 Oxford Road, Ann Arbor, Mich.

where they lived until the 1930s. After they sold it, the house changed hands several times, eventually becoming the home of various fraternities—most recently Tau Kappa Epsilon. In 1996, when it housed twenty men and was bursting at the seams, the TKEs put it on the market. In late 1996 Jeff and CJ walked through the maze of rooms, admiring the treasures still remaining from the Lombards' day. "The house was on an amazing piece of land and still had a lot of really impressive architectural features—like the original hardwood floors, fireplaces, some of the original glass, a lot of the original moldings—and that was very attractive to us," says Jeff. They closed on the property and began renovations in May 1997.

"The house wasn't in a historic district then, though it was in an area under study to become a district," Louisa Pieper recalls. "Unfortunately, that district became a victim of politics and was never adopted. So Jeff and CJ's enthusiasm and hard work are even more important, since there is no legal protection for the house."

"Without designation, they also do not benefit from tax

credits. But they set a super example for the neighborhood, showing how a great old house could be rescued and made very livable, reversing the trend toward breaking old houses up into multiple units."

"We did a very thorough renovation, taking the woodwork—like the door and window casings, the baseboards, and such—and having them duplicated at Fingerle," Jeff recalls. "We redid the rooms as they had been originally used, making the library the library, the kitchen the kitchen, to keep that consistent with the original footprint of the house."

CJ saw a lot of potential in the house, and also a challenge in how to realize that potential. "There are two dif-

ferent levels of stewardship for home owners," she says. "There's one where someone purchases a home that's been exceptionally maintained, and that's almost buying into someone else's history. And a lot of people really like that feeling. There's another level that comes by discerning what may have been important to the original owner and what parts weren't so important and taking that into account while updating the house so it is livable in this day and age."

The Hauptmans went with livability. "We maintained the original footprint of the house, but updated the interiors in terms of technology and interior layout," CJ says. "We took one of the bedrooms and converted it into a master bath for a master suite." They replaced the heating system, added air-conditioning, and "transformed a second stairwell into the basement into a first-floor powder room. In these instances we thought about what was important to the Lombards, and then did our best to integrate our modernity with their general ideas."

CJ's research at the U-M's Bentley Historical Library had turned up "a lot of information" about the Lombards themselves. "And there's a little kismet in the fact that they were the type of couple not so far removed from the type of couple that Jeff and I are," she adds. "They were very civically active, interested in art and history and how the town was developing, and they both were very committed to the Ann Arbor—university community."

For their next project, Jeff and CJ will be channeling an even more celebrated Ann Arbor personality: they have bought and are currently renovating the former home of Fielding Yost, the legendary U-M football coach and athletic director. It's just a few blocks from the Lombard house, but for CJ, Jeff says, the move is a chance "to explore another venue of

research and historical stewardship. Personally, I felt that Yost was much more conducive to raising a family. Lombard is much larger and sprawling and located in a student neighborhood, while Yost is more compact and located in a neighborhood with lots of children."

Fielding Yost completed his "Little Big House" in 1927, immediately after finishing work on Michigan Stadium. "It's a gorgeous home in a phenomenal location, very secluded yet very convenient," Jeff says. "It's just a very well-designed, beautiful residence, and what we're basically doing now is just bringing it into the twenty-first century."

Like Yost, who held prayer meetings at the house for his teams and the general public, the Hauptmans plan to host both public and private events at their new property. "I think that if you want to live in a city and be a part of it," CJ explains, "you're sort of responsible for doing something for it as well."

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—Jason Nargis





# personals

## Personals Key

A=Asian	L=Letters
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D=Divorced	ND=Nondrinker
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H=Hispanic	P=Professional
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate	S=Single
ISO=In Search Of	W=White
J=Jewish	

**SWF** seeking cute genius with great, friendly personality. **5546**  
**SWF**, 42, 5'6", NS, likes barbecues, parks, animals, walks, kids, music, dining out. **ISO SWM**, 40-65, who is warm, caring, and a good listener. **55429**

## men seeking women

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

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After our first painful phone chat and playing hard to get if necessary, we might discover something great. **Trim SWM**, 44, ISO funny, friendly **SF**. **5542**

**SWM**, 43, student, ISO a woman for friendship, to pass time and have fun with. I don't have a big-time job/money, but am trying to better myself. I look presentable at 6 ft., 210 lbs. Interests: books, movies, computers, nature. Why be alone? **5549**

Santa Claus is seeking Mrs. Claus. Must be NS who likes dining out, movies, bowling, and sports. Ages 21+. **5519**

Good-hearted, handsome, solitary entrepreneur/naturalist. Seeks LTR with adorable, creative, playful, gentle spirit who shares a passion for animals, country living, nature walks, poetry, Asian/Native American art/modalities, desires spiritual/psychic development (Shamanic rituals). No e-mail. **5533**

Are you looking for an energetic, sensual, bright, handsome, caring companion (maybe for life)? Look no farther. Tall **SWPM** over 40 awaits. **5508**

**DWM**, 57 years young, 190 lbs., 5'11". Attractive, home-centered, enjoys music, nature, gardening, spirituality, ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. **5385**

Reflective, sensitive **SWM**, serious astrologer, 5'10", 54, ISO understanding, intuitive, kind, accepting Earth Mother, of any ethnicity, for a deep and profound LTR. **5393**

**SWM**, physically fit, NS, intelligent, honest, accommodating. Enjoys books, movies, travel. ISO similar **SWF**, compatible, attractive, approximately 45-60. **52918**

**DWM**, 53, 5'9", 150 lbs., no children, Ph.D. scientist/farmer in conservation/ecology. ISO woman scientist for rural life, international travel, romance. **4486**

Educated, fit, **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39-47, who is positive on relationships. **3031**

## friendships

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Wanted: Individuals to form stock market discussion group. **5541**

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You must be 18 or older.  
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Responses are forwarded for \$3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes. Mail all responses (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for \$3 per response made payable to: Ann Arbor Observer • 201 Catherine • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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### Send us the information...

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### The first 4 lines are FREE!

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Please call with any questions or comments:

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We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

## Congratulations!

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Personals ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are eligible for our monthly contest. The winner, chosen for creativity and originality, will receive certificates for **dinner for two at the Earle and coffee and dessert for two at Espresso Royale Caffe.**

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Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 127? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor*. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 9. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769-4950; e-mail: penny@aobserver.com (include address and phone number).



## December 2005 ANN ARBOR OBSERVER 113



# services

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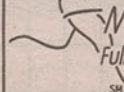
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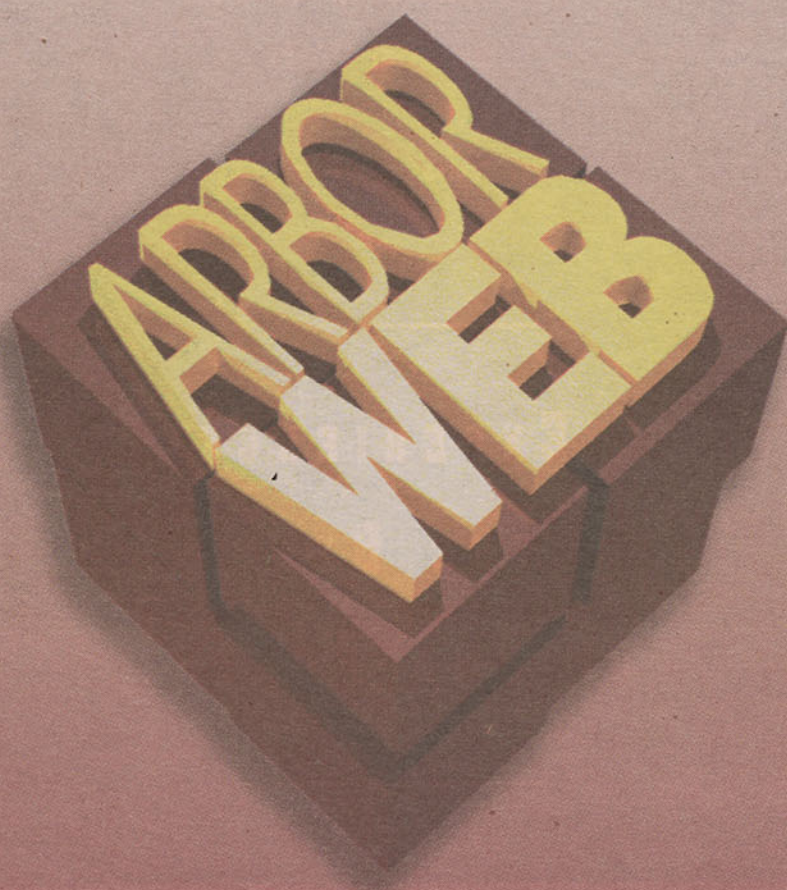


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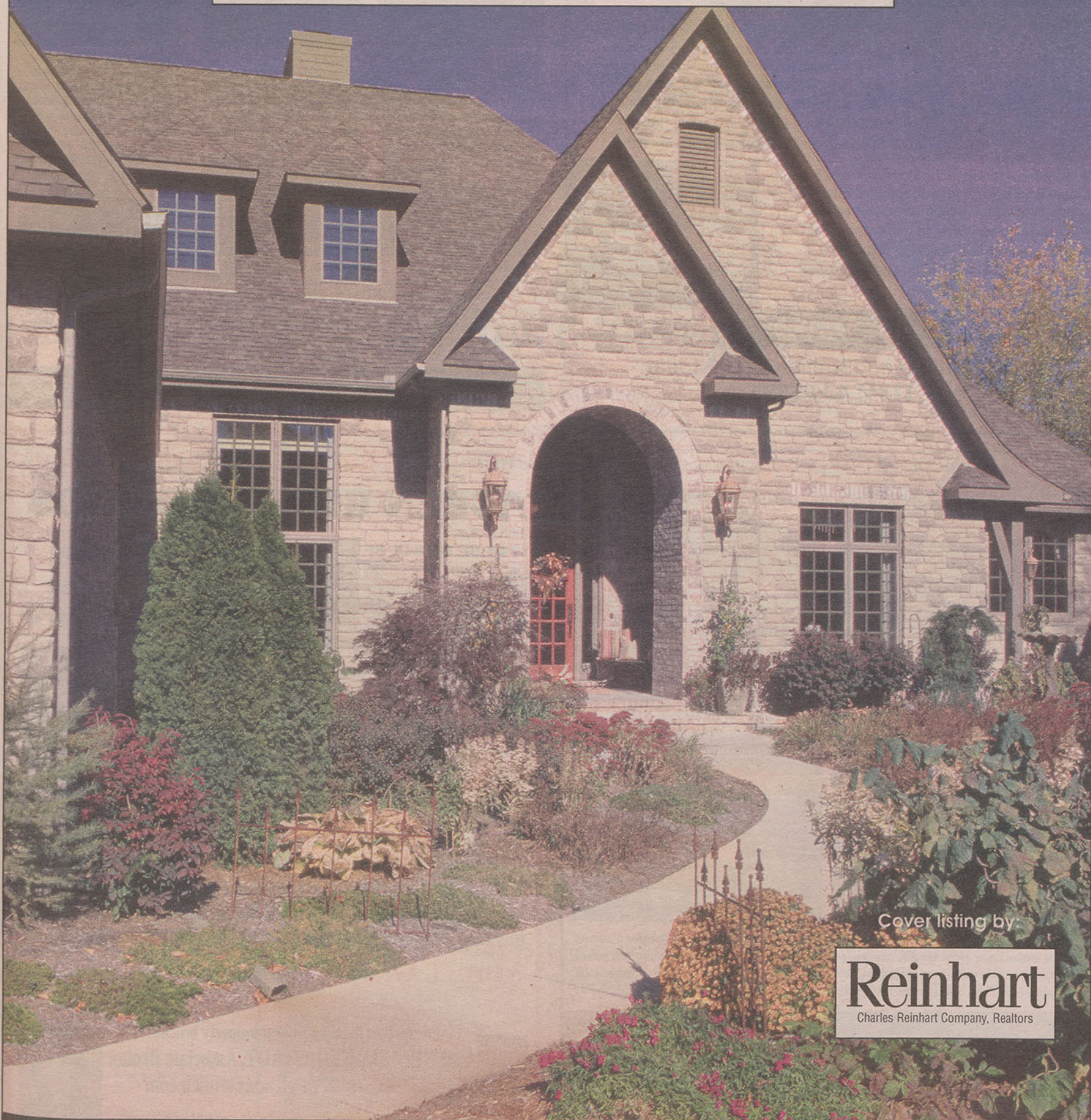
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# Real Estate

GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties  
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties



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**Ann Arbor** 3637 Briarlee. Awesome, brick 5-6 bedroom on 1.6 mature acres with 205 ft. on Huron River. 2 studies, maple floors and cabinets, granite. Walkout with exercise, billiards & family rooms. \$949,000. #2513788



**Ann Arbor** 519 Riverview. Contemporary 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch with many trees and gardens. Newer appliances, hearth room with stone fireplace, updates include: hardwood floors, bath, roof. \$389,000. #2514120



**Ann Arbor** 640 Dornoch. Spectacular 6,000 sq. ft. brick home on Polo Fields Golf Course. First floor master, study, 3 fireplaces, 4.5 baths, incredible walkout and landscaping. 5-car garage. \$890,000. #2508708



**Ann Arbor Twp.** 4988 Liberty. Luxurious brick and stone ranch on 1.5 acres backing to pond and golf course. Gorgeous finishes, 7,500 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, Viking appliances. Outdoor veranda. \$1,400,000. #2507311



**Ann Arbor** 192 Riverview Ct. Premier area surrounded by 15 wooded acres. Stunning contemporary with hardwood and slate floors, solarium room, 3 bedrooms, 2 studies, screened porch. \$825,000. #2514428



**Ann Arbor** 2116 Devonshire. Classic brick colonial with 3,666 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, master suite, updated kitchen and baths. Third floor with rec room. Brick patio. 3-car garage. \$899,000. #2513161



**Ann Arbor** 3221 Heather. Brick 5-6 bedroom, 6,800 sq. ft. home on golf course. Expansive plan, cherry study, walkout with exercise room and sauna. Stone patio with built-in grill and spa. \$1,449,000. #2507956

office: 734.665.0300  
dir: 734.669.5957  
cell: 734.645.4444

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# Real Estate

Residential and Commercial Properties  
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

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**On the Cover:** This luxurious brick and stone ranch features 7,500 sq. ft. on 1½ acres that back up to a pond and a golf course. Its many amenities include 4 bedrooms, 4½ baths, a veranda, and Viking appliances. \$1,400,000. Elizabeth Brien, Charles Reinhart Company Realtors. (734) 665-0300.

Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

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## Advertising Information

Telephone: (734) 769-3175

Fax: (734) 769-3375

Ann Arbor Observer

201 Catherine • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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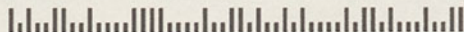
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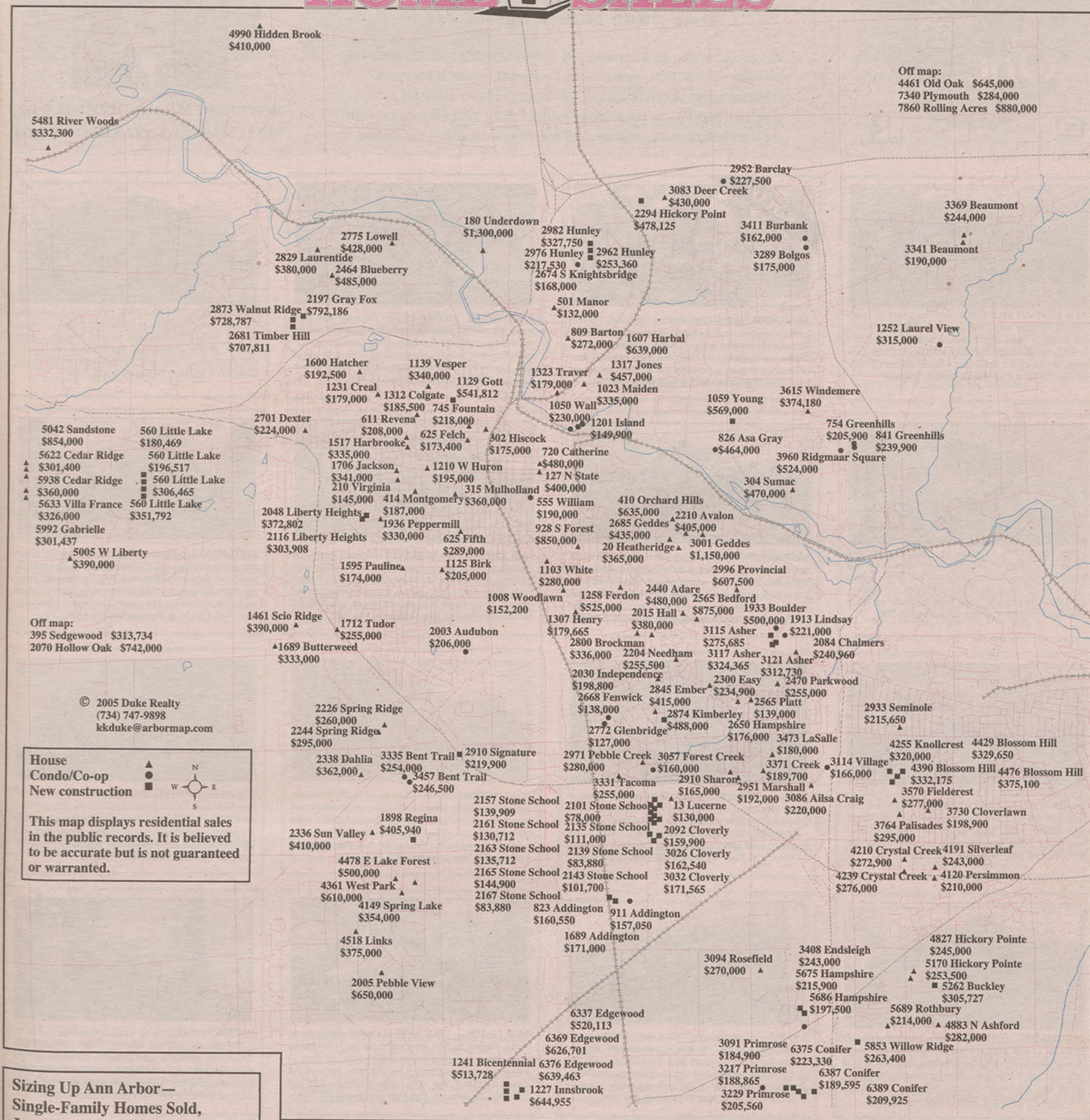
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# OCTOBER 2005 HOME SALES



## Sizing Up Ann Arbor— Single-Family Homes Sold, January–October 2005

Size (sq. ft.)	No.	Avg. Price	Per Ft.
600–999	124	\$185,000	\$208
1,000–1,249	211	\$232,000	\$208
1,250–1,499	143	\$262,000	\$192
1,500–1,749	131	\$306,000	\$188
1,750–1,999	102	\$315,000	\$168
2,000–2,499	125	\$430,000	\$194
2,500–2,999	64	\$494,000	\$185
3,000+	28	\$789,000	\$214
Citywide	928	\$311,000	\$195

The chart at left takes the measure of single-family homes sold in the city (not the townships) during the first ten months of 2005. It breaks out the average (mean) selling price as well as the number of sales in each size range, and the average price per square foot of living space.

Midsize homes of 1,750–1,999 square feet were the best value, averaging \$168 per square foot of living space. Those over 3,000 square feet averaged the highest

price per foot—\$214. Perhaps it should come as no surprise that with the bidding for affordable homes, per-square-foot prices are nearly as high for the smallest houses as for the big ones.

Newer homes were much less expensive; they sold for an average of just \$161 per square foot. Guenther's new subdivision, Foxfire, bordering M-14, accounted for twelve new single-family homes that sold for an average price of just \$147 per

foot. These relatively low prices demonstrate one way builders succeed in attracting customers to new neighborhoods.

Home buyers paid much more in Ann Arbor's older neighborhoods. Half of the 928 single-family houses sold so far this year were built before 1955; they sold for \$217 per square foot on average—a 25 percent premium over the \$173-per-foot average for homes built since 1955.

—Kevin Duke



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**NEW LISTING - STONEBRIDGE** - This home is absolutely breathtaking. Super custom built home overlooking the pond and #17 fairway at Stonebridge. Every conceivable amenity is here including extensive cherry floors, cherry kitchen with granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with large rec room. \$899,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**ANN ARBOR HILLS** - This stunning 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home in one of the area's most desired locations is a new complete remodel featuring a huge addition and all the high-end finishes you would expect. Luxury throughout including cherry kitchen with granite, incredible master suite, and unique bonus suite. \$899,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - STONEBRIDGE** - This is one of the finest homes you will find. Incredible custom built home on a premier wooded setting backing to a gorgeous stream. Luxurious appointments throughout including two-story family room with wall of glass, gourmet kitchen, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$899,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS** - Gracious 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath custom-built home on the golf course in one of Saline's premier communities. Vaulted ceilings, cherry kitchen, granite countertops, hardwood floors, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$849,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**YORK MEADOWS** - Fabulous new construction by Mitch Gasche on a tree-lined acre lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Incredible 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath design with only the best finishes. Features include custom maple kitchen with granite countertops, den with site-built cabinets, maple hardwood floors, and luxury master suite. \$599,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SAGINAW HILLS** - This custom-built home by Dion sits on one of the most beautiful settings available. Enjoy gorgeous pond views from this premier setting on Ann Arbor's west side. Oversized living room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open kitchen, study, beautiful master suite with view of water, and finished basement. \$589,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - MANCHESTER** - Stunning 4-bedroom, 3-bath timber frame style home set on 12 gorgeous, private acres bordering nature conservatory. Incredible feel with exposed beam construction, upgrades galore, custom kitchen with granite counters, luxury master bedroom, and separate suite with full kitchen. \$579,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**WATERWAYS** - Custom 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath, Great room style home on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to woods and pond. Wonderful plan with first-floor master suite, two story living room, open kitchen to family room with back stair, and finished basement, extensive landscaping. \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS** - Turn-of-the-century 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Victorian on 4 acres in Pittsfield Twp. Incredible combination of historic beauty, modern updates, and a park-like setting. Features include heated garage, barn, remodeled kitchen with granite, fieldstone fireplace, and remodeled master suite. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE** - Prestigious 5-bedroom, 4-bath estate property on a park-like setting backing to woods and a stream. Many unique features. Spacious ranch with vaulted ceilings throughout, oversized master suite with sitting room, finished walkout basement, 3-car garage, decking, lots of windows, and more. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**HUNTINGTON WOODS** - This is another quality 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home by Bayberry Construction in one of Saline's most desired new subs. Incredible plan with two-story family room, kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters, and eleven-foot ceilings, luxury master suite, 3-car garage, and walkout basement. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**POLO FIELDS** - Hard-to-find 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built home overlooking a beautiful pond in one of Ann Arbor's most desired country club communities. Wonderful features inside and out including extensive landscaping, large deck, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and finished basement. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - THE UPLANDS** - Absolutely perfect 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home in a quiet, interior location in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Wonderful features throughout including 2-story foyer, 9 ft. ceilings, spacious kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished basement with large rec room. You will love it. \$469,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE** - Another quality custom home by Bayberry in the Arboretum. First-time offering featuring stunning arts and crafts exterior, two-story foyer, large kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite countertops, extra large mud room, family room with 11 ft. ceiling, and unique walk-up master suite. \$464,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - YPSILANTI** - Incredible country retreat on 6.5 gorgeous wooded acres just minutes to I-94. Outdoor lovers take note: property features walking trails, gun range, 20 x 40 heated in-ground pool, and two pole barns. Interior is like a resort lodge with high vaulted ceilings, unique spaces, and ample built-ins. \$464,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**PLEASANT LAKE** - This lakefront home has one of the finest views you will find anywhere in the Ann Arbor area. Breathtaking panoramic views of Pleasant Lake from this completely updated home. New kitchen, Corian countertops, great room with stone fireplace, and extensive decking, landscaping, dock, etc. \$459,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**CENTENNIAL FARMS** - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home in one of Saline Schools' most desired subs. Loaded with features and amenities including great room, large kitchen with ceramic tile floor, luxury first-floor master suite, large bedrooms, and finished basement with large rec room and study. \$379,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SAGINAW HILLS** - Incredible opportunity available with this 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath transitional-styled home on a gorgeous 2.8-acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Unique interior design features oversized living with vaulted ceiling, family room with fireplace, and master loft. \$374,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS** - Very rare opportunity. Completely updated all-brick ranch on 3.5 manicured acres in Pittsfield Twp. Gorgeous interior with open kitchen, large formal living room, family room with fireplace, and all glass sunroom. \$349,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - CHELSEA SCHOOLS** - Super sharp 3-bedroom, 2-bath architect's home on 3 peaceful acres in the Waterloo recreation area. This home features clean lines and quality upgrades throughout. Gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets and cherry floor, great room with 2-way fireplace, luxury master suite, and more. \$334,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.





**BURNS PARK**—One of the Grand Homes of Ann Arbor available for the first time. Gracious all-brick Georgian colonial in one of the most premiere locations in town. Old world craftsmanship at its finest with extensive woodwork, Mahogany doors and trim, 4 fireplaces, and spectacular proportions throughout. \$1,495,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEWPORT CREEK**—Fantastic custom-built home in Ann Arbor's premier neighborhood. Gourmet cherry kitchen with granite and the highest-end appliances, dramatic living spaces with top quality finish, luxury master suite, finished basement, the latest home electronics, and more. \$1,399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

## NEW CONSTRUCTION

**NEW LISTING—ANN ARBOR**—New construction on Devonshire!!! Incredible custom designed 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath colonial on one of the most desired streets in town. Fabulous features and amenities throughout including custom kitchen with granite counters, oversized family room, luxury master suite, and more. Spring 2006 occupancy. \$995,000. Call Matt Dejanovich for more information, 734-476-7100.



**NEWPORT CREEK**—Harris Homes presents another spectacular offering in Ann Arbor's premier custom home community. Gorgeous lot backing to wooded common area. Striking home design with ample use of brick and stone. Custom kitchen, granite countertops, and finished walkout basement \$975,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING—SALINE**—Builder's model home 4-bedroom, 4½-bath Huntington Woods. This home is incredible featuring extensive upgrades, professional decorating, and more. Amenities include gorgeous crown moldings, cherry kitchen, granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$699,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**STONEBRIDGE**—Stately 4-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home on the 9th hole at Stonebridge. Gracious brick colonial on perfect grounds with extensive patio, 3-car garage, 2-story family room, cherry kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished basement with bar, rec room, home theater, and bath. \$699,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

## NEW CONSTRUCTION

**NEW LISTING—ANN ARBOR**—Stunning new construction now under way in Pheasant Hills by Evergreen Custom Homes. Incredible design and flair make this home a real winner. Custom features throughout including maple kitchen with granite counter, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and more. \$699,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEWPORT HILLS**—Custom-built on a spectacular wooded lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Spectacular setting with gorgeous views of nature. Stunning vaulted ceiling in living room, maple kitchen with hardwood floor, two-story family room, back stair, and luxurious master suite. Wines Elementary. \$674,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

## NEW CONSTRUCTION

**NEW LISTING—ANN ARBOR**—Spectacular new construction in the heart of one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Stunning arts and crafts 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath, two-story with spring occupancy in Eberwhite Elementary. Custom features throughout including maple kitchen with granite counters, ample hardwood floors, luxury master suite, and more. \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SUPERIOR TWP**—Very sharp 4-bedroom, 3½-bath brand-new cape on 13+ gorgeous wooded acres just minutes from hospitals and freeways. Great quality in design and materials featuring great room with vaulted ceiling, custom cherry kitchen with granite counters, luxury first-floor master suite, and flex-use bonus room. \$535,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**THE ARBORETUM**—Former builder's model fully loaded. Stunning 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial design in one of Saline's most desired subs. Wonderful floor plan features curved entry stair, kitchen with maple cabinets and upgraded appliances, large family room, and luxury master suite with sitting area and dream bath. \$534,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**STONEBRIDGE**—Quality 4-bedroom, 4-bath, backing to trees in one of the area's most desired subs. Perfect condition. Great room with vaulted ceiling, large kitchen with granite counter tops, luxury first floor master bedroom, and finished lower level with great rec room, extensive landscaping. \$529,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE**—Striking 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on 10.5 peaceful acres in Lodi Township. Colonial-style home with large front porch, 30' x 40' outbuilding, sharp interior featuring open kitchen with maple cabinets, large family room, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished walkout basement. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE**—This 4-bedroom, 4½-bath Bayberry home in the Arboretum is an incredible value. Many quality features and amenities including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, oversized two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished basement with view-out windows. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**LEGACY HEIGHTS**—Be part of Pittsfield Township's most successful new neighborhood by Bayberry in this stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home. Striking arts and crafts design features cherry kitchen, granite counters, 3-car garage, and a load of upgrades. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**STONEBRIDGE**—Stunning detached condo at Highpoint in Stonebridge. Like new, custom features and amenities. Interior is gorgeous, cherry kitchen with professional grade appliances, great room with vaulted ceiling, den with built-ins, screened porch, and luxury master suite with dream bath. \$474,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING—SALINE**—Another fabulous 4-bedroom, 3½-bath new construction by Bayberry in Huntington Woods. Wonderful design features first-floor master bedroom, two-story great room, large kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite countertops, walkout basement, and 3-car garage. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**EAST HORIZONS**—This is a super 5-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home on a spacious acre lot in one of the area's most desired subs. Features inside and out with extensive landscaping, large deck, great room with vaulted ceiling, large kitchen with hearth sitting area, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$439,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE**—Another fabulous new home in Huntington Woods by Bayberry Construction. Gracious 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home loaded with quality features and amenities including 3-car garage, view-out basement, cherry kitchen, and granite counters. \$429,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING—TECUMSEH**—Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 3-bath 1800's farmhouse on 15 pastoral acres just 10 minutes south of downtown Saline. Featuring heated barn perfect for car storage. Interior has best of old and new with cherry kitchen and Corian counters, hardwood floor, oversized moldings, family room, and luxury master suite. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**LANDSDOWNE**—Very rare find. All-brick 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a private cul-de-sac lot, walking distance to Lawton Elementary. Wonderful home with oversized living room, family room with fireplace, screened porch, study, and master suite with attached bath. \$329,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING—MILAN**—This is one of the nicest homes you will find. Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in York Township. The list is long: cherry kitchen, remodeled baths, perfect décor, finished walkout basement, huge deck and patio. WOW! \$329,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING—NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP**—This 3-bedroom, 2-bath tri-level on a private acre lot is just 10 minutes from downtown Ann Arbor. Wonderful opportunity to enjoy a peaceful country setting so close to town. This home is completely updated and features a 3-tier deck, small pole barn, bright open spaces, and great flex-use space. \$244,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**YPSILANTI**—Super sharp 3-bedroom, 1½-bath brick colonial, walking distance to EMU. This home is as cute as it gets and in move-in condition. Features include spacious living room with hardwood floors, cove ceiling and fireplace, formal dining room, large sun room, spacious bedrooms, and private backyard. \$189,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.





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**GREAT VALUE** in a home with first floor bedroom plus second floor master suite with study nook. New listing in heart of Ann Arbor close to Burns Park and U-M campus. Quiet setting, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, finished basement and garage. \$259,900. **Nancy Harrison, 320-2211 / 662-8600.** (CR2513687)



**NEW LISTING** - Two-story up-to-date home, new carpet and neutral décor, 2.5 beautiful baths, hardwood floors, formal living room and dining room, family room with fireplace. Quiet setting, large deck, available immediately. Saline Schools, low taxes. \$265,000. **Tim Harrison, Sr., 320-2210 / 662-8600.**



**GREAT "IVES WOODS"** two-story contemporary. 2,828 sq. ft. Four bedrooms, 2.1 baths, fabulous living room, spacious formal dining room, study, family room, and kitchen. Master with balcony. Lots more. \$700,000. **DeFord Team, 645-3060 / 662-8600.** (WO2513463)



**STRIKING CENTENNIAL FARMS HOME** - Over 2,800 sq. ft., two-story foyer, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, study, hardwood floors, finished basement with bath, new paint, extensive landscaping, overlooking common area. Saline schools, AA address. \$438,000. **Gail Sinelli, 320-0828 / 662-8600.** (W2512642)



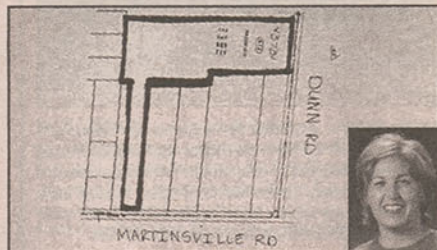
**THREE-BEDROOM, 2.5-BATH** - 2,859 sq. ft. contemporary home, situated on 1.2 acres with commanding curb appeal. Cathedral ceilings. Serene island lake views. \$459,900. **Zachary Mintzias, 734-777-3687 / 662-8600.** (BE2503296)



**LANDSDOWNE SUB** - 2282 Delaware. Three bedroom, 2 bath home backs to Lawton School. Recent updates and gorgeous landscaping. For map, features, room by room photos, and dimensions, go to: [www.GregJohnsonRealEstate.com](http://www.GregJohnsonRealEstate.com). \$310,000. **Greg Johnson, 646-5957.** (DE0000000)



**ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS** - Pittsfield Twp. Taxes. Kid friendly on 1 acre, park-like fenced yard, brick home with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, solarium, fireplace, 2.5-car garage, many new updates and mechanicals. \$229,900. **Doris Goble, 604-1109 / 662-8600.** (CA2511975)



**SPLITS AVAILABLE** on 15-acre parcel in Sumpter Township. Belleville Schools. Property has frontage on Dunn Road and Martinsville Road. \$195,000. **PJ Moffett, 645-6145 / 662-8600.** (DU2408934)



**GRAND WESTSIDE ANN ARBOR** home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. 1517 Pauline. Walk to parks and schools. For map, features, room by room photos, and sizes, go to: [www.GregJohnsonRealEstate.com](http://www.GregJohnsonRealEstate.com). \$300,000. **Greg Johnson 646-5957 / 662-8600.** (PA2504271)



**IMPRESSIVE!** Four-bedroom, 2-full, 2-half bath colonial with 3,033 sq. ft., open living space - great for entertaining, views of natural preserve from inside and out. Nearly 700 sq. ft. in walkout lower level. \$519,900. **Pearsall Team, 213-6745 / 302-8800.** [www.Bonuscashhomes.com](http://www.Bonuscashhomes.com) (2505300)



**THE EUROPEAN LODGE** - Serene 1.3 acre, entertaining on 3 levels, gourmet kitchen, fabulous master suite and bath. Vaulted beam ceilings, oak floors, finest wood work, hand-crafted fireplaces, game room, billiard room. \$1,295,000. **John Romagnoli, 368-0300 / 662-8600.** (BL2513607)



**STONEBRIDGE** - Luxury detached condo. Three bedrooms, 3 baths. Large great room with gas fireplace and 12 ft. ceilings. First floor master, 3-season porch. Finished lower level. All this with golf course view and beautiful sunsets. Live maintenance free. \$448,900. **Suzanne Betz, 646-7975 / 662-8600.** (SA2514185)



**PARTRIDGE CREEK RANCH** with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths and formal dining rooms. Office with French doors. Absolutely move-in ready with fully finished basement and extensive deck. \$229,950. **Michael Mazur, 734-678-5020.** (EN2512762)



**CUSTOM HOME** on 10+ acres. Two-story great room with walnut fireplace and peaceful views of pond. First floor master. Cherry staircase in library, French country kitchen with granite counters - a chef's dream. Pine floors throughout. Walkout basement. \$575,000. **Suzanne Betz, 646-7975 / 662-8600.** (MA2511458)



**GEORGIAN COLONIAL** on 5+ acres. Custom home with all the bells and whistles: large master, hardwood floors, cherry kitchen and library. Extra detached garage holds 6 cars or great for horses. \$649,900. **Suzanne Betz, 646-7975 / 662-8600.** (DE2408386)



**NEW ON MARKET!** Enchanting Wildwood Park is an awesome place to call home. Solid brick colonial is waiting for you. Choice of Middle School - best price in neighborhood. \$319,900. Huron/N. Revena/Harbrooke. **Amy Griffith, 741-8852 / 662-8600.** (HA2514236)

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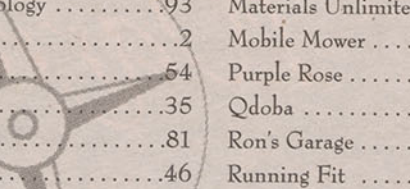


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## BACK PAGE

# I SPY

**Built as a gas station in 1928; soon to be a refueling station of a different sort—where Avenue and Boulevard split.**

by Sally Bjork



To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"The photo is of 'The Brownstone Condominiums,' 501-507 Detroit Street, where I have lived for the past three years. Other residents in this wonderful

building have been here for seventeen and twenty-plus years—and we wouldn't want to live anywhere else!" exclaimed Margot Michael, responding to November's mystery photo.

Francis Stofflet, a news and book dealer and publisher of the *Ann Arbor Daily Times*, constructed this townhouse-style building for his children and their families in 1900. After the Stofflet children moved

on in the mid-1920s, Francis's widow occupied the first unit and split the rest up into flats. The building was renovated in the 1970s and converted to condos in the 1980s.

"Having spent several months restoring the exterior brickwork of [this] property," wrote William V. Suchmann of Ann Arbor, "I feel a certain intimacy with it." Faithful entrant Tom Jameson, another of last month's nine entrants, enjoyed "a little cruising around the few remaining brick streets!" to identify "the Stofflet building." Dunrie Grieling of Ann Arbor—who identified it as the "building across from Zingerman's"—won our random drawing and will receive a copy of Jonathan L. Marwil's *History of Ann Arbor*.

## FAKE AD

by Jay Forstner

We received 164 correct entries to our little contest this month, a total that is neither extraordinarily large nor extraordinarily small. Just right, Goldilocks would say.

Ann Arbor's Cherie Holodnick won our random drawing. "The Fake Ad for this month is on p. 104, for the Accelerated M.B.A. at Southern Michigan University," she wrote. "If only it was so easy! You may actually get some takers." She's taking her gift certificate to MisSaigon Vietnamese & Far East Cuisines.

The ad described an M.B.A. program in which students attend class while under a general anesthetic, an idea Ann Arbor's Melodie Marske found appealing. "I really think you're on to something here," she wrote. "Can you work out a way to sleep through other advanced degrees too?"

One other entrant, who shall remain nameless, suggested, "I think I work with someone who 'graduated' from this program: a colleague who brags about having an M.B.A. but doesn't seem to know the first thing about business! And to

**Stop dreaming of getting your M.B.A., and start dreaming while you get your M.B.A.**

There are plenty of ways to get your M.B.A. in Ann Arbor. Web classes. Traditional classroom settings. One weekend a month. Now, Southern Michigan University and Neuroesthesiology Associates are teaming up to offer Michigan's first accelerated M.B.A. program for students under a general anesthetic. Each class night, our board-certified anesthesiologists will induce in the student a state of "receptive rest." While in that condition, the student's mind absorbs the information being taught while his or her body gets the benefit of a good night's sleep. The student "wakes up" feeling rested and ready for work while getting the benefit of eight hours of classroom instruction.

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think I wasted all that time in college earning a real degree."

To enter the contest for December, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. If you really perused the body copy for the Accelerated M.B.A. ad, you noticed that the first sentence ends with "Arbor" and the second begins with "web"—forming the name of the Observer's website, *arborweb*, and tipping you off that this was indeed the Fake Ad. The winner of our random drawing will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Fax: (734) 769-4950. E-mail: penny@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Friday, December 9, will be eligible for the December drawings.



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# EVENTS AT A GLANCE

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 69 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 69.

## Classical & Religious Music

- University Choral Union *Messiah*, Dec. 3 & 4
- Violinist Gabe Bolkosky, Dec. 4
- Chester String Quartet, Dec. 8
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 8
- Pianist Joel Hastings, Dec. 9 & 11
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 11
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 11
- Vox Early Music Ensemble, Dec. 11
- Measure for Measure chorus and the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 11
- Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, Dec. 11
- Ypsilanti Community Band, Dec. 13
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 14
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 17
- Three Men and a Tenor, Dec. 22

## Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Lee Murdock (Great Lakes songwriter), Dec. 1
- Cyndi Lauper (pop), Dec. 2
- Greg Trooper (singer-songwriter), Dec. 2
- Over the Rhine (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 2
- Patti Wicks (jazz), Dec. 2
- Brendan Benson (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 2
- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 3
- The Javon Jackson Band (jazz), Dec. 3
- Ekoostik Hookah (neohippie), Dec. 3
- Lowen & Navarro (folk-rock), Dec. 4
- Carly Simon (pop chanteuse), Dec. 4
- Judith Owen (singer-songwriter), Dec. 5
- Action Action (indie rock), Dec. 6
- Jane Siberry (singer-songwriter), Dec. 6
- Bettye LaVette (R&B), Dec. 7
- Horizons Jazz Quartet, Dec. 8
- Jesse Richards (singer-songwriter), Dec. 8
- Katie Geddes & Friends (folk-rock), Dec. 9
- Jorrit Dijkstra's Flatlands Collective, Dec. 9
- Del McCoury Band (bluegrass), Dec. 9
- Dianne Reeves (jazz), Dec. 10
- Martin Sexton (singer-songwriter), Dec. 10
- Paradime (hip-hop), Dec. 10
- Katherine Schell (singer-songwriter), Dec. 11
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Holiday Ragtime Bash, Dec. 11
- Chris Knight (country-rock singer-songwriter), Dec. 11
- Mike Mosallam, Amanda Satchell, Gavin Creel, and Celia Keenan-Bolger (cabaret), Dec. 12
- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy (New Orleans), Dec. 13
- Kristin Hersh (singer-songwriter), Dec. 14
- Rachel Price (jazz), Dec. 15
- Trinidad Tripoli Steelband (calypso), Dec. 15
- Phil DeGreg (jazz), Dec. 16
- Musicians for Peace Benefit Concert, Dec. 19
- Joe Weaver & R.J.'s Rhythm Rockers (R&B), Dec. 30
- The Chenille Sisters (pop-folk), Dec. 31



**Messiah**



**Today's Brass Quintet**

This month's holiday events include Jerry Blackstone conducting the annual hometown *Messiah* at Hill Auditorium December 3 and 4, Today's Brass Quintet performing their annual Croissant Concert at Kerrytown Concert House December 3, and the Performance Network's production of *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* every Thursday (except November 24) through Sunday, November 10–December 24.



**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol**

## Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *The Great American Egg Nog Festival* (BlackBag Productions), Dec. 1–3 & 8–10
- *The Glass Menagerie* (Purple Rose Theater), Dec. 1–4, 7–11, & 14–17
- *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* (Performance Network), Dec. 1–4, 8–11, 15–18, & 22–24
- *Cinderella* (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 2–4
- *Winter Wonderland* (Dance Gallery Studio), Dec. 2
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (EMU Dance Program), Dec. 2
- *Macbeth* (U-M Rude Mechanicals), Dec. 2–4
- *Csardas: The Tango of the East* (The Budapest Ensemble), Dec. 3
- *The Mechanicals* (Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater), Dec. 7–10 & 14–17
- *A Flea in Her Ear* (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 8–11
- Joan Morris's *Barnum's Nightingale* (U-M Clements Library), Dec. 8–10
- *Life with Father* (P.T.D. Productions), Dec. 8–11 & 15–17
- *The Sorcerer* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 8–11
- *Mirror Story* (U-M School of Music), Dec. 9 & 10
- *The Snow Queen in Seven Stories* (Dreamland Theater), Dec. 10, 11, 17, & 18
- *The Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 16–18
- *Pastorela Mexicano* (Teatro Latina), Dec. 17

## Films

- Warren Miller ski adventure film *Higher Ground*, Dec. 3

## Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Joel Mabus (folk), Dec. 17
- Bohola (Irish), Dec. 18
- The Ark's "Crossroads Ceili" (Irish), Dec. 29 & 30

## Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Ben Creed, Dec. 1–3
- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Dec. 6
- Comic Tom Simmons, Dec. 8–10
- *This American Life* host Ira Glass, Dec. 10
- Comic Maria Bamford, Dec. 15–17
- Stunt Johnson Theater comedy troupe, Dec. 22 & 23
- Comic Keith Ruff, Dec. 29 & 30
- Comic Kenny Rogerson, Dec. 31

## Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Holiday bazaars & sales, Dec. 1–4, 6, 10 & 11
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 2–5
- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 2–4
- Main Street Association Festive Friday Holiday Nights, Dec. 2, 9, 16, & 23
- Concordia Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 2–4
- Waterloo Farm Museum "Christmas on the Farm," Dec. 3 & 4
- Dexter Victorian Christmas, Dec. 3 & 10
- Kempf House German Family Christmas, Dec. 3, 4, 10, & 11
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 4
- Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas, Dec. 4
- Rentschler Farm Museum Christmas, Dec. 10 & 11
- Ypsilanti New Year Jubilee, Dec. 31

## Lectures & Readings

- Poet Mark Doty, Dec. 1
- Fiction writer Adania Shibli, Dec. 2
- Novelist Elizabeth Block, Dec. 7
- Fiction writer Eileen Pollack, Dec. 8

## Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Pinocchio* (EMU Theater of the Young), Dec. 3, 4, 9, & 10
- Mike Fedel & Friends family concert, Dec. 3
- Main Street Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 4
- Ralph's World children's concert, Dec. 4
- *Musicians of the Sun* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 7–11
- *The Nutcracker* (Youth Dance Theater of Michigan), Dec. 9–11
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing Along with Santa," Dec. 10
- *The Three Musketeers* (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 16–18
- Storyteller LaRon Williams, Dec. 17
- *A Christmas Carol* (Theaterworks USA), Dec. 18
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance Repertory Company), Dec. 18

## Miscellaneous

- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 17

## "Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Poets and artists from the *In Drought Time* anthology, Dec. 2 & 8



# A&D university of michigan school of art & design

## 12.2005

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12.01

PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISITOR SERIES:  
**BYRON KIM**



Byron Kim is known for conceptual paintings rooted in abstraction. His work has included color field "portraits" that represent the skin pigmentation of his friends and family, and site-specific wall paintings made with the grime collected from the building's vacuum cleaners.

**PRESENTATION: 5:00pm**

Michigan Theater  
603 East Liberty Street, Ann Arbor

12.03 - 12.17

EXHIBITION:  
**TWELVE @ 555**



Twelve women artists examine the issue of what is women's art, featuring UM undergraduates and alumni and curated by A&D undergraduate Sara Holwerda.

**RECEPTION: 12.03, 8:00 pm**

555 Gallery  
4884 Grand River Avenue, Detroit

12.01 - 12.31

EXHIBITION:  
**COLLABORATORS' EXHIBIT 2**



Gallery Project presents the second exhibition of its collaborators including A&D graduate student Ben Van Dyke and alumna Beili Liu.

**RECEPTION: 12.02, 6:00 - 9:00pm**

Gallery Project  
215 South Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor

12.06 & 12.13



PERFORMANCE:  
**B-LINE TOURS**

"After Gepetto" in cooperation with the AATA presents, B-Line Tours, a rolling puppet performance on, (with) and for the Link Bus staged by students in A&D Assistant Professor Nick Tobier's Performing Objects course. Shows begin with a prelude at the Michigan Theater bus stop at 2:04, 3:04 and 5:04 and proceed to the Blake Transit Center (2:08, 3:08, 5:08) then follow the Link route to N. University. Events and narrative on the bus and at Link stops. Free and fantastical.

**PERFORMANCE: 2:00 - 5:30pm**

12.09 & 12.10

PERFORMANCE:  
**MIRROR STORY**

An electronic opera for voice, dance, electroacoustic music and video by A&D assistant Professor Alicyn Warren. As a young woman lies dying, her life flashes before her eyes - but backwards in time, as if reflected in a mirror. Featuring soprano Mimmi Fulmer; directed and choreographed by William Farlow; video images by Johnny deKam and Alicyn Warren; lighting design by Mary Cole; libretto by Alicyn Warren and Mimmi Fulmer. Based on *Spiegelgeschichte* by Ilse Aichinger.

**PERFORMANCE: 8:00PM**

Duderstadt Video Studio  
Duderstadt Center, North Campus

11.18 - 12.13

EXHIBITION:  
**2005 A&D FACULTY EXHIBITION**



A once-a-year opportunity to see the creative efforts of all of A&D's full-time faculty, including a lively mix of paintings, prints, ceramics, installation, performance and electronic works. Some practitioners push the boundaries of the gallery context, others examine issues that link to the sciences, music, sociology, philosophy, architecture, anthropology, law, and women's studies.

Jean Paul Slusser Gallery  
1st Floor, Art & Architecture Building

12.14

PERFORMANCES:

**WORKS IN PROGRESS, "DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE PLEASURES" AND "BURN THIS BOAT"**

A&D MFA candidate James Leija and A&D Visiting Artist Andrea Maio present a double bill of new performance works-in-progress: "Desperate Times Call For Desperate Pleasures", a witty and provocative exploration of the contemporary urban sexual landscape and "Burn This Boat", true stories from the Mississippi River.

**PERFORMANCE: 7:30pm**

Duderstadt Video Studio  
Duderstadt Center, North Campus



11.18

12.13

EXHIBITION:

**SHOW ME THE MONEY**

Work  
306 South State Street, Ann Arbor

Work by undergraduates in A&D Associate Professor Rebekah Modrak's course, "Show Me the Money", examining local and global commerce as it relates to the gallery space as a means of distribution.

11.18 - 12.23

EXHIBITION:  
**WORKS IN PROGRESS**



Drawings, prints, typography, photography, performance, comics, sculpture, digital media... A&D MFA candidates present their works-in-progress. The gallery becomes an extension of the studio, works change, evolve, and rotate throughout the course of the exhibition.

Warren Robbins Gallery  
2nd Floor Art & Architecture Building

11.18 - 12.13



Work by A&D undergraduates in Associate Professor Joe Trumpey's ArtEco course examining human interactions with the environment.

Work  
306 South State Street, Ann Arbor

11.05 - 12.18

EXHIBITION:  
**2005 ACTUAL SIZE BIENNIAL, VOL. 2**

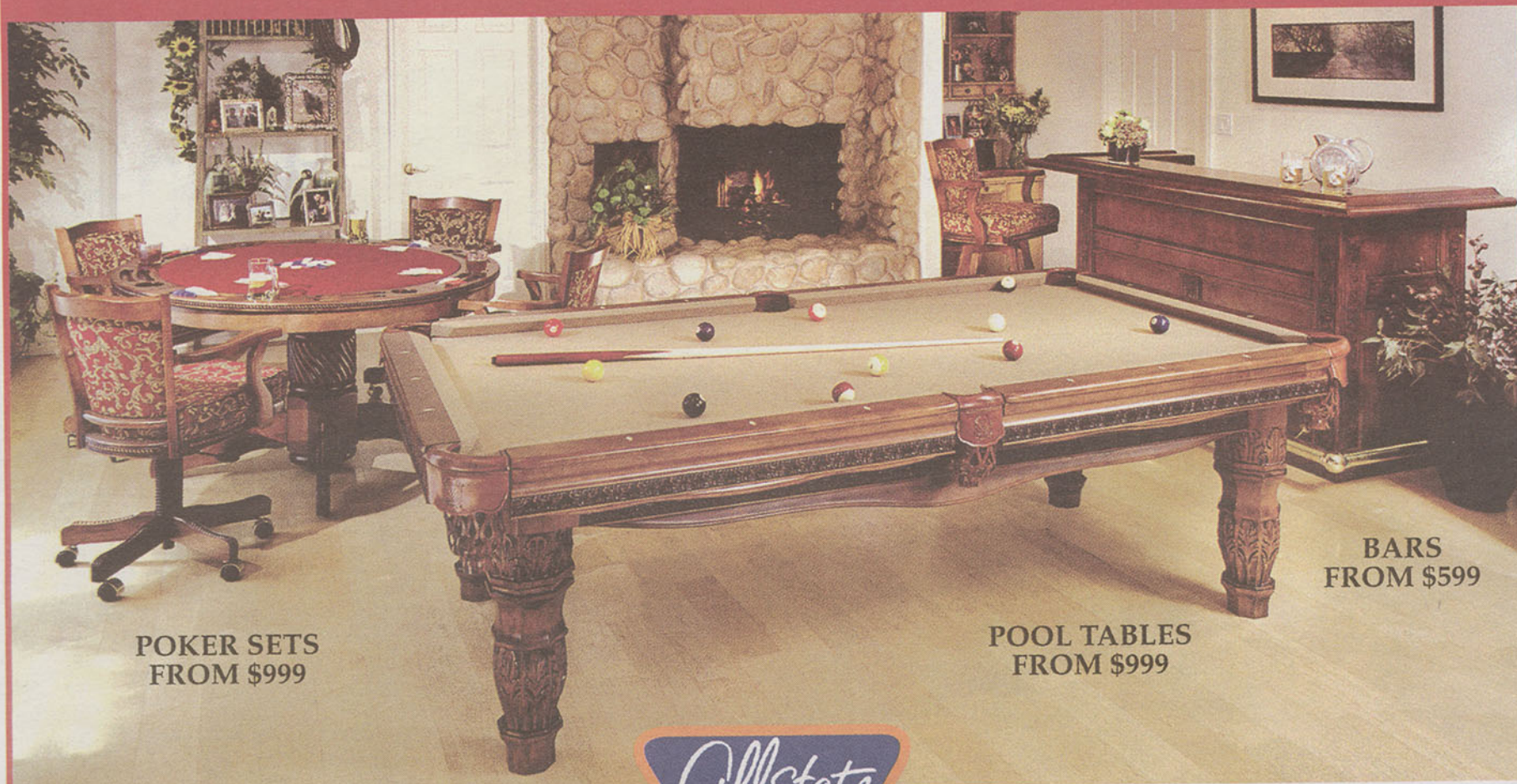


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